





# End to rift over EEC car exhaust controls in sight

BY PAUL CHEESNIGHT IN BRUSSELS

SHARP differences between Germany and the other major car manufacturing countries of the EEC—France, Italy and the UK—over criteria for the introduction of strict new car exhaust standards may be healed over the next fortnight.

This possibility emerged yesterday morning when, shortly after five o'clock, environment ministers of the European Community emerged from 19 hours of discussion.

Officials will now start exploring the details of compromise proposals from the European Commission, leading to a further ministerial meeting on March 20.

The outcome of these talks will be crucial in maintaining the integrity of the EEC car market and removing the uncertainty which has caused a drop in car sales, especially on the German market.

Germany wishes to make a quick move to U.S. car exhaust standards, using the three-way catalytic converter. In an attempt to cut the pollution damaging its forests. The other car-making countries want a slower approach, allowing time for the development of new engine technology.

The Bonn Government is prepared to accept Commission proposals on a timetable for the introduction of these standards, but the UK remains uncertain about whether the dates are practicable and its doubts are shared by Belgium, Denmark and Greece.

The Commission proposes the adoption of new exhaust standards for cars of 2,000 cc or more in 1989-93, for cars of 1,400-2,000 cc in 1990-92 and for cars of under 1,400 cc in 1993-94.

## OECD raises estimate for short term GNP growth

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has raised slightly its estimate for economic growth in industrialised countries this year, thanks largely to the continued strong performance of the U.S. economy.

The generally optimistic short term outlook outlined in the two day meeting of international economic officials which ended here yesterday is, however, clouded by uncertainties over the longer term. These focus on doubts over whether U.S. growth could be thrown into reverse by an eventual slump on the dollar, according to delegates at the meeting.

U.S. representatives, led by Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, the U.S. Treasury Under-Secretary for monetary affairs and nominated chairman of President Ronald Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, rained home the message that America would do little to try to correct the high value of the dollar.

Treasury representatives re-

affirmed that intervention on the foreign exchanges was more likely to unsettle the market than to stabilise it. The message which follows the apparent peaking out of this week's concerted central bank efforts to dampen the dollar, was spelled out by a relatively junior Treasury official after Mr. Sprinkel left the meeting.

But the view certainly coincides with Mr. Sprinkel's often expressed belief that the value of the dollar must be left to the market—reflected also in President Reagan's recent warnings about "tying with" the U.S. currency.

On the economic outlook, the OECD now believes real growth of 3.25 to 3.5 per cent in gross national product in the 24 member nations is now possible this year, compared with an estimate of 3 per cent made at the end of last year. This year's expansion, however, still represents a slowdown compared with 4.75 per cent real GNP growth achieved last year.

# Gandhi goes for gold in attack on black market

John Elliott on India's crackdown on smugglers and tax evaders

A FEW weeks after Indian astrologers noted in mid-January that the sun had entered Makar Rashi (the sign of Capricorn) a small wooden boat with a cargo of dates was raided by customs officials off the Bombay coast. Smuggled gold from Dubai worth about \$4m (£3.5m), was seized.

The period was astrologically propitious for marriages, after several dark months. The gold was bound for some of India's 300,000 goldsmiths to be turned into bangles, earrings and necklaces for brides who provide most of the demand for the 120 tonnes of gold used in India every year.

Encouraged by an attack on India's black economy launched by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister, and aided by a tip-off, the customs officials raided the boat as part of a sweep that netted smuggled gold worth over \$10m in the first of two weeks of February.

At the same time tax inspectors in Bombay and elsewhere stopped up raids on suspected tax dodgers, especially diamond merchants who import \$1bn of rough diamonds a year for cutting, polishing and re-export.

Some are suspected of concealing up to 80 per cent of their business from the authorities.

Smugglers carry gold in the form of 24 carat "hisuits", each weighing 33 oz. These have been found recently, along with several thousand wrist watches, concealed behind wooden planks in the boats

which cross the Arabian Sea from Dubai. Some were found in bags submerged in muddy water off the coast, tied to a stake by smugglers to avoid detection.

India produces only two or three tonnes of gold a year but needs its 120 tonnes (12 per cent of the world's production) because of its marriage conventions. By tradition, jewellery costing Rs 6,000 to Rs 15,000 (about £400 to £1,100) must be bought by a middle class family to give their daughter security and status.

Gold was also hoarded until rural banking started to develop in recent years and it has been bought to legalise (or launder) black money.

About 50 tonnes of gold a year is recycled from melted-down ornaments and jewellery, mostly in the black market to avoid taxation. The rest has to be smuggled from abroad because imports have been banned for 30 years.

This pushes the price of gold in India up well above that abroad and makes smuggling extremely lucrative, especially in the marriage season. When the boats were caught off Bombay last month, the average price for 10 grams in London was the equivalent of Rs 1,251 while in India it was Rs 2,019.

The other main black market clamp-down has been on the diamond merchants who have

been hit in Bombay with 36 tax raids in the past six months. Diamonds worth some Rs 40m to Rs 50m were seized for inspection and about a quarter, are still held.

India is the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing nation. Diamonds are an important foreign exchange earner because of the value added by the processing which employs 300,000 people. The merchants are putting pressure on the Government to agree rules for tax raids. They are threatening to cancel \$25m to \$35m in imports of diamonds for the second time in five weeks.

Other Bombay tax raids in recent weeks include a huge exercise involving 800 inspectors who entered the premises of a property developer and his associates. Businesses raided have included computer companies, building material suppliers, furniture upholsterers, and car body repairers. Stock brokers' offices may be hit soon.

Mr. Gandhi has started to try to reduce India's booming black economy, estimated by some experts to be almost half as big as the official Gross National Product, as part of a wide-ranging attack on corruption.

Black money is partially created by corrupt practices, such as the payment of bribes, with protectionist policies. It is also created by concealment of

business deals and earnings to avoid taxation. Many businesses run two sets of accounts—one genuine and the other for the tax inspector.

Some funds for smuggling are provided by many of the 3m Indians working abroad who can obtain higher rates of exchange on the black market for Indian rupees to repatriate to families at home. They can pay their dollars in the U.S. (or elsewhere) to agents of smugglers who use the money to buy gold or other goods. Their families then receive rupees generated by sales of the smuggled goods in India.

Repatriation of funds feeds into the black economy in other ways. Several foreign-held equity stakes in Indian companies have been changed bands using, it is believed, black money belonging to the non-residents.

India's annual budget, to be delivered on March 16, is expected to launch a major offensive against black money. A scheme may be launched to persuade people to transfer their black money into the official economy. Much stiffer penalties would be introduced for those who do not comply.

Three years ago black marketers were offered bearer bonds to legalise their wealth. These netted some \$17m, a relatively small amount.

Few people believed then that the attack on black money was permanent because many politicians and civil servants running the economy at that time were themselves corrupt.

This week the finance ministry has raised the rewards for informers on smuggling along India's 6,000km of coastline and 15,000km land borders from 10 to 20 per cent of the value of goods recovered. Both the customs and tax authorities have large bands of outside informers and also give rewards to staff.

It is generally accepted by both the Government and businessmen that the only effective way of dealing with the black economy is to cut back on all types of controls.

For example, gold bullion dealers want the Government to face up to reality and legalise some gold imports. They suggest that Indians living abroad could be allowed to send part of their remittances home in gold, and travellers could bring some through customs duty-free. Then there would be less incentive for the date boats from Dubai to hide gold biscuits in their bulwarks.

By tradition jewellery must be bought by middle-class parents to give their daughter security.

## W. Germany hit by three bomb blasts

By Rupert Cornwell in Bonn

THREE MORE bomb blasts in Essen, Hamburg and Bochum—allegedly connected with the collapse of the British pound—have increased fears here that West Germany is facing a renewed wave of terrorism, perhaps incorporating an ominous shift in tactics.

The attacks, which seriously damaged buildings but caused no injuries, came overnight, only hours after a bomb exploded in a department store in the Ruhr city of Dortmund wounding eight people, several of them seriously.

Responsibility for the Dortmund explosion, has been claimed by an organisation linked to the Red Army Faction (RAF) far left terrorist group, but police are not ruling out other possibilities.

Most alarming, however, is the random choice of target, similar to the techniques of rightwing extremism which has plagued Italy and France. This would constitute a significant change in tactics by the RAF, which has hitherto tended to select individual targets.

The three overnight bombings were aimed at buildings connected with the mining and energy industry. A group calling itself "Revolutionary Cells" yesterday claimed responsibility.

It accused the owners of the buildings, two companies and a trade union, of being the "grave-diggers" of the British mining strike.

## Nato tables six-point plan for peace

BY DAVID BROWN IN STOCKHOLM

FOUR DAYS before the scheduled start of U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva, Nato delegates to the European Security Conference in Stockholm have called for "serious and detailed" negotiations on measures to cut the risk of war in Europe.

As a basis for negotiations, the delegates have tabled a six-point package of confidence-building measures.

"The time has come to begin negotiating in precise language," Mr. James Goodby, U.S. ambassador, said yesterday. "I think these proposals have forced the pace of the conference."

The proposals put before yesterday's plenary session are virtually identical to those which have already been submitted individually to smaller working groups over the past five weeks.

They include provisions on certain military movements for

President Ronald Reagan yesterday warned that the U.S.-Soviet arms talks which open in Geneva on Tuesday would be "long and difficult" and would require Western unity if they were to succeed.

After giving final instructions to the U.S. negotiating team at the White House, Mr. Reagan renewed his pledge to seek the elimination of all nuclear weapons, but said he was "realistic" knowing that

the differences with the Soviet Union were great. Mr. Reagan said his three negotiators were setting out for Geneva "on a new path toward agreements which radically reduce the size and destructive power of existing nuclear missiles." The U.S. team is led by Mr. Max Kampelman, who will also negotiate on space and defensive weapons, while Mr. John Tower will deal with strategic weapons and Mr. Maynard Glitsman with intermediate range missiles.

The expansion of advance notification and exchange of information, for the mandatory presence of observers, and for adequate means for verification. The purpose is reestablishing the ideas is to show that "all six provisions have to be taken

prepared to discuss provided the final document includes specific measures which go significantly beyond those contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act."

While the positions of Nato and the Warsaw Pact routines remain well apart, both sides say there has been sign of movement in the "working groups" where most of the work of the 35-nation conference is being conducted.

We have seen the beginning of the give and take required for us to leave generalities behind and move toward actual negotiations," Ambassador Goodby said yesterday.

His Soviet counterpart, Ambassador Oleg Grinevskii, attempted to block the proposal on procedural grounds and charged that the latest Nato ideas fail to take Moscow's position into account. Further proposals from the USSR can be expected, he said.

## Iran says many die in Iraqi raids

IRAQI WAR PLANES yesterday bombed four border towns in south and west Iran, killing or wounding hundreds of people, AP from Nicosia quotes, the official Iranian news agency IRNA as saying.

The agency quoted Ali Reza Attar, governor of West Azarbaijan province, as saying that 400 people were killed or wounded in Miranab, a small town just east of the border in Iranian Kurdistan.

The Governor told IRNA that the Iraqi jets attack at densely populated areas of the town, the staging point of Iran's assault into Iraqi Kurdistan last year. IRNA said that the Iraqis also launched air strikes against Abadan, Kharramshahr and Susangerd, killing more than 50 residents.

Reuter adds from Tehran: Residents of the southern Iraqi port of Basra, meanwhile, said Iranian artillery had resumed bombarding the city.

The latest series of strikes on civilian centres started with Iraqi raids on Monday on an unfinished nuclear plant at Bushehr and a steel complex at Ahvaz in which at least 11 people died.

## Education protest

AN overwhelming majority of delegates representing Poland's universities have criticised Government proposals to restrict university autonomy. They urged that changes in the higher education law be deferred, writes Christopher Robinson from Warsaw.

Last January the Government published proposals aimed at changing the higher education law. These would withdraw the autonomy given to students and staff as a conciliatory gesture in 1982.

## Italy-Malta split

Malta and Italy yesterday appeared to be drifting further apart following an Italian Senate decision to virtually block a \$15m (£4m) grant to Malta. Malta was scheduled to receive the grant as part of a five year financial protocol which expired in 1983, writes Anthony Grima from Malta.

Last year Malta imposed a ban on Italian imports, cancelled a defence treaty with Italy and plunged for a military accord with Libya when Italy insisted the funds should have been utilised during the protocol period. Since taking over as Prime Minister from Mr. Dom Mintoff in December Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici is known to have launched a fresh diplomatic move to mend the island's broken down fences with Italy.

## U.S. 'blocks' loan to Nicaragua

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE U.S. has asked the Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to defer action on a \$55m (£55m) loan to Nicaragua, warning the further U.S. funding of the bank will be "even more difficult" if the loan is approved.

The warning was contained in a personal letter from Mr. George Shultz, the U.S. Secretary of State, to Mr. Antonio Ortiz Mena, the IDB's president, which was seen by bank officials and Latin American diplomats as an unprecedented U.S. attempt to exert political pressure on the bank.

The Nicaraguan embassy in Washington said yesterday that the agricultural development

loan, which has been a source of controversy for over two years, had been "blocked." If the U.S. had stoked the loan for political reasons, it would be a breach of the bank's rules, the embassy said.

While a number of the bank's Latin American members are sympathetic to Nicaragua's Sandinista Government, many of them are concerned that the precedent could be used against their own countries in a future dispute with the U.S.

Insisting that U.S. opposition was on economic grounds, the State Department said yesterday that Nicaragua "continues to be at or near the top of the list of countries pursuing seriously flamed and inappropriate

economic policies."

In his letter, however, Mr. Shultz said that the money would relieve financial pressure on Nicaragua and "free up other monies that could be used to help consolidate the Marxist regime and finance Nicaragua's aggression against its neighbours, who are members in good standing of the bank."

The U.S., the bank's largest contributor, is nearly \$1bn in arrears in its payment of pledged contributions, and additional funding is still awaiting Congressional action. Bank sources said that the U.S. appeared to have succeeded in its definitely stalling the loan, which is to be submitted to further "technical."

## Argentine military rift deepens

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

A MAJOR reshuffle of the Argentine military high command has raised the prospect of fresh political confrontation between the Government and sectors of the armed forces.

The reshuffle has been prompted by the Government's need to find loyal officers capable of ensuring discipline in the run up to the trial of the former military junta leaders next month. This week six generals have been retired: four rear-admirals and two air force brigadiers, bringing to over 60 the number of high ranking officers sacked in 15 months by President Alfonsín.

The Government began the move on Monday by announcing that the army commander, Gen. Ricardo Pianta, had replaced Gen. Julio Fernandez Torres as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But such was the opposition of most of the country's generals to the appointment that Gen. Pianta was obliged to resign.

drastic defence cuts imposed by the civilian administration.

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According to military sources the appointment is expected to aggravate inter-service rivalries that have deepened as a result of the Falklands war and the

Another reminder this week of military disaffection was the decision by Argentina's highest military tribunal, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, to exonerate Captain Alfredo Astiz—one of the most publicised names in the "dirty war"—from any blame in connection with human rights violations.

This was a sharp blow to St. Alfonsín's original hope that the military should try their own, thus avoiding a major civilian witch hunt.

Captain Astiz has been accused by human rights groups of responsibility in the kidnapping and alleged murder of an Argentine family, a Swedish student and two French nuns following the 1976 coup. However, the navy high command was yesterday reported to have returned Capt. Astiz to active duty on the aircraft carrier Veinticinco de Mayo.

## Hong Kong polls attract 38% of registered voters

BY DAVID DODWELL IN HONG KONG

JUST UNDER 38 per cent of Hong Kong's registered voters turned out for Thursday's territory-wide district board elections, it was revealed yesterday.

The modest turnout—by less than 10 per cent of the population—followed weeks of saturation advertising by the Administration, which heralded the event as a critical step towards greater public involvement in Government. It shows much ground still has to be covered before the political reversion of Hong Kong people coaxed fully into the democratic process.

Young people, and people in the more stable rural communities and new towns in the new territories, took a more active interest. While political parties still do not exist—and are frowned on or feared by many in the Administration—it was also clear that candidates supported by pressure groups and trade unions fared better.

This week the Administration spent \$2.5m (£299,000) getting people to the polls. Officials yesterday said they were happy with the result. It was a solid first step towards more direct public involvement in government, they said.

## Japan finishes digging out longest tunnel

THE DIGGING of the world's longest tunnel, linking Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido and Honshu, will be completed tomorrow, AP reports from Japan. Construction work started in 1964.

The 53.85 km Seikan Tunnel, which will cost about ¥800bn (£2,480m), was launched to form a high-speed railway link. Since the project got underway, however, Japan's passenger transportation has shifted from rail to air and motorways.

The Japanese national railways' initial plan to lay tracks in the tunnel has been frozen, making its future uncertain.

## Esal chief accused of planning new identity

By Our New Delhi Correspondent

INDIAN police yesterday accused Mr. Rajendra Sethia, managing director of Esal Commodities, which collapsed last year with debts of about \$200m, of planning to assume a new identity.

Mr. Sethia was arrested in New Delhi on March 1. A passport bearing his photograph but in the name of Mr. Raj Kumar Dugar, and a shift-larly named cheque book, were found, along with an air ticket in his hotel room and in a travel agent's office, according to police evidence produced in court yesterday.

Mr. Sethia's counsel said he had come to India on December 8 to try to clear up Esal's debts with London branches of three major nationalised Indian banks, the Punjab National, Union, and Central. He had already paid back \$50m of \$200m owing to the banks and had been in touch with the Finance Ministry and banks in Delhi "to try to see if an effective plan could be worked out for repayments of dues to the Indian banks."

Mr. Sethia was remanded in police custody for a further five days. Another court hearing will take place next Wednesday when an application lodged with India by the British Government for extradition may be considered.

Indian police believe they may have a stronger case to put forward than the UK police and might oppose his extradition.

In India, Mr. Sethia is accused of "criminal conspiracy to defraud" the three Indian banks, which were "dishonestly induced" by him to provide loans to Esal.

Police sources said after the hearing that they had been interrogating Mr. Sethia for 18 hours a day for the first three days after he was arrested and then for about 12 hours a day. They wanted to be able to continue this pattern into next week, and so strongly opposed a claim from Mr. Sethia's counsel that he be released.

## India files Bhopal lawsuit

The Indian Government will file a lawsuit in the U.S. on behalf of all victims of the poison gas leak in Bhopal that killed at least 2,500 people last December, Reuters reports from New Delhi.

Mr. H. R. Bhargava, Minister of State for Law, said Mr. B. S. Sethia, Law Secretary, was putting the finishing touches to the lawsuit in the U.S. It would be filed in the next few days.

Mr. K. Parasaran, India's Attorney-General, reported after a visit to the U.S. in January that the Indian Government could interfere on behalf of the gas victims, and American courts had jurisdiction to decide on compensation.

## Empire chief dies

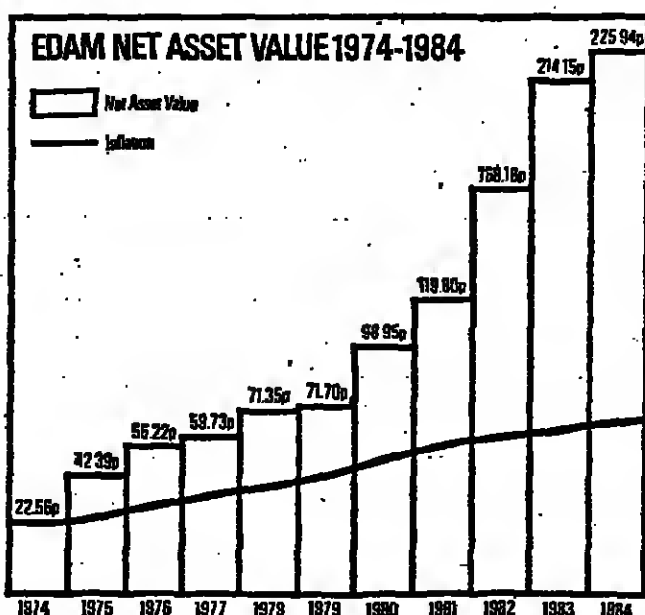
Mr. Robert Woodruff, who built Coca-Cola into an international financial empire and amassed a personal fortune large than \$200m (£117m), to the college he left out of his estate. He died at the age of 95. AP reports from Atlanta, Georgia.

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## Societies to set home loan rates after Budget

By Margaret Hughes

BUILDING SOCIETIES are to hold a special meeting after the Budget on March 21 to make a final decision on interest rates. This was confirmed yesterday by the Building Societies Association (BSA) following its monthly council meeting.

The decision coincided with the announcement by the Halifax, Britain's largest building society, that it is to tap the indicated loan markets for the first time to raise £100m. This funding, it said, would help to ensure that it remained competitive in the mortgage market.

Unless there is a reduction in bank base rates between now and the BSA Council meeting, societies are expected to increase mortgage rates by 1 per cent.

At the same time, societies are expected to increase the returns which they pay to investors by three quarters of a percentage point.

Building societies' interest rates have been well out of line with market rates for several weeks.

An indication of the increased competition for funds is the launch yesterday of a new account from the Anglia Building Society. This instant-access high-interest account, called the Instant Liquid Gold, offers the return of 9 per cent net of basic rate tax, equivalent to 12.86 per cent gross. This matches the return of the best of the major societies' short-notice accounts, the Woolwich Prime Account launched only two weeks ago. However, only £250 is required to open the Anglia account.

## Consortium set to break British Gas supply hold

By Dominic Lawson

BRITISH GAS'S grip on the sale of gas in the UK is set to be broken by a consortium of oil companies, led by Trafalgar House, the construction to oil conglomerate.

It will be the first time that private industry has taken advantage of the Oil and Gas Enterprise Act of 1982, which ended the requirement of gas producers to offer their gas to the British Gas Corporation.

The consortium, led by Trafalgar House, has agreed terms, in principle, to sell the gas to the Laporte chemical plant in nearby Redhill.

The Government has yet to give permission for the field to be developed, but is likely to be enthusiastic.

The field is thought to contain about 500 cubic feet of gas, and it is planned to sell the gas at a rate of about 700,000 cu ft a day. Trafalgar will construct a pipeline from the field.

## Shiprepair yard talks continue

By Andrew Fisher, Shipping Correspondent

READHEADS, the Tyneside shiprepair yard which was hauled by the Government as a model of how privatisation still could work, yesterday still could talk with a neighbour, holding talks over a possible solution to its financial difficulties.

Neither Readheads, formerly part of state-owned British Shipbuilders, nor privately-owned Tyne Dock Engineering, with

half the qualifying amount for the Woolwich Prime Account. The Halifax's decision to tap the syndicated loan market for the first time is aimed at ensuring a greater availability of a stable supply of funds. According to Mr Terry Carroll, the society's investments manager, this and other forms of wholesale market funding will result in an overall reduction in the society's cost of funds. This would allow the Halifax to be more competitive in its mortgage lending, ensuring mortgage borrowers greater availability of funds at competitive rates.

The five year syndicated loan which it announced yesterday is part of its policy of diversifying the source of its wholesale funding, raising variable rate funds and extending their maturity. The average life of its mortgages is seven years and its aim is to gradually match this with the maturities of its wholesale funds mortgages.

The loan is being arranged by Citicorp International as lead manager who yesterday reported that it had been very favourably received in the market. It will be a bullet issue where the funds are repaid at the end of the five year term rather than in instalments throughout the life of the loan. The terms of the loan have not been announced but the margin is known to be very fine—of a percentage point above sterling deposit rates as are the fees which participating banks will receive.

Aside from Trafalgar, which has a 35 per cent stake in the field, the other partners are Carless, Capel (24 per cent), Marlinex (24 per cent) and Hadson (16 per cent). The field was discovered in 1964 by Esso, but earlier attempts by British Gas to sell the gas to Laporte proved unsuccessful.

British Gas is likely to regard the deal with displeasure, as the thin end of the wedge. Several oil companies have discussed with ICI the possibility of selling gas from the North Sea direct to ICI's Billingham chemical complex.

The Trafalgar consortium is thought to have offered Laporte price about 10 per cent below the 27p per therm charged by the corporation to industrial customers of interruptible gas.

British Gas has told the Government that it will withdraw its bid for the Yarrow shipyard if the Government does not choose between it and GEC, by March 21st. Technically, the yard will go to the higher bidder, but the Government is able to go back to the companies and ask them to raise their offers.

## Famous Grouse perched to take on U.S.

By Richard Tomkins

THE FAMOUS GROUSE has found a very comfortable nest over the pond. It was announced this week that the Scotch whisky blend by Matthew Glog and So, a Highland Distilleries subsidiary, was to be marketed and distributed in the U.S. by Heublein, a subsidiary of R. J. Reynolds, the tobacco group.

The move is a significant one. Heublein is the second largest spirits marketer and distributor in the U.S. after Seagram and has the muscle to deliver on its stated aim of turning The Famous Grouse into a top-selling premium Scotch liqueur.

The Famous Grouse is one of the Scotch whisky industry's success stories. Although an old-established blend, its name belied the extent of its popularity until the takeover of Matthew Glog by Highland Distilleries 15 years ago.

Prominence to the point where it dominates the Scotch market and ranks high in the British one.

Last year, although it got its wings clipped in Scotland by cut-price blends, it put on 24 per cent in sales volume in England and defied a general downturn in the UK market to increase sales by 2 per cent overall. It accounted for nearly all of Highland Distilleries' 9 per cent increase in turnover to £22m.

Although the UK is by far the most important market for The Famous Grouse, Highland Distilleries has been trying to broaden its base and has invested heavily in promoting the blend overseas. Exports last year rose by 23 per cent as a result, albeit from a very small base.

Its attempts to penetrate the U.S. have been limited and have concentrated on the affluent markets of northern California and Texas. These moves have been expensive without greatly increasing sales but in catching Heublein's attention, they have been an unalloyed success.

Heublein packs a considerable sales punch. It distributes a range of spirits and wines which includes Smirnoff vodka, the second-biggest selling spirit in the U.S. after Bacardi, Black Velvet whisky from Canada and Harvey's Bristol Cream sherry. There is no doubt that it can give The Famous Grouse a presence in the U.S. market which Highland Distilleries could never have hoped to have achieved on its own.

## Bank to issue £600m gilts

By Philip Stephens

THE BANK of England took advantage of a more confident tone in the gilt-edged market to announce the issue of an additional £600m of existing stocks.

The stocks—£200m of 9 per cent Treasury 1994, £200m of 10 per cent Treasury 1999 and £200m of 10 per cent Conversion 2002—will go on sale on Monday.

The announcement was seen in the market as an indication that the authorities hope to use any sustained rally ahead of the Budget as an opportunity to step up its funding.

Yesterday, long-dated gilts rose by up to 4 points as sterling held steady on foreign exchange markets and sterling interest rates edged lower.

Lord King was speaking

## Stefan Wagstyl traces the growth of a diversified company founded on whaling

### Christian Salvesen prepares for its public debut

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, one of the UK's largest private companies, announced yesterday that it plans a Stock Exchange flotation this year, probably in the early summer.

Merchant banker Kleinwort Benson is to bring the company to market by means of an offer for sale with the help of the company's stockbroker, Hoare Govett.

The Edinburgh-based group, which has interests in food processing and distribution, marine and oil services and house building, is expected to have a market capitalisation of at least £200m. It would be the largest new issue from the private sector since the flotation of Reuters electronic information and news group in June.

Christian Salvesen made pre-tax profits of £26.2m on sales of £210.8m in the year to last March. The largest contribution came from its food distribution division.

The group is the biggest cold store operator in the UK, with a national network of 16 depots and a fleet of 500 refrigerated lorries. Overseas, it runs cold stores in the U.S., Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

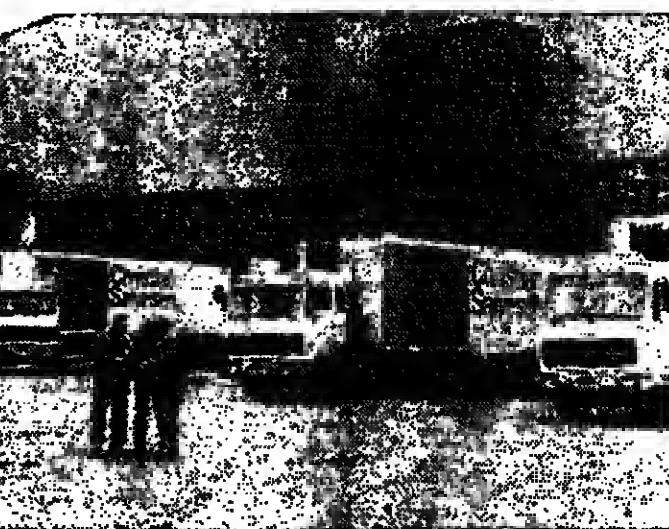
Its house-building company completed 2,335 homes last year, and it has interests in North Sea oil services, hire and sale of diesel generators and in shipping.

Mr Gerald Elliot, present chairman and great-grandson of Christian Salvesen, joined the company in 1948 and spent the first years of his career on whaling expeditions.

He says the character of the modern company was formed in its whaling years. "We have a



Mr Gerald Elliot, chairman of Christian Salvesen. Distribution is just one company activity



Christian Salvesen. Distribution is just one company activity

The founder, Christian Salvesen, came to Scotland from Norway in the 1840s and worked as a ship agent and owner before going into whaling in the 1880s.

The group became one of the world's biggest whaling companies, with fleets in the Arctic and Antarctic and a permanent base on South Georgia.

Mr Gerald Elliot, present chairman and great-grandson of Christian Salvesen, joined the company in 1948 and spent the first years of his career on whaling expeditions.

He says the character of the modern company was formed in its whaling years. "We have a

very close relationship with all our people which goes back to when we knew almost every chap on our whaling ships."

However, the sharp reduction in the world's whale stocks drove Christian Salvesen to sell off its fleet, mainly to the Japanese, and invest its money elsewhere in the 1950s and 1960s.

The main steps in its diversification took the company into deep-sea fishing—including one of the earliest freeze-at-sea factory fleets—fish processing and distribution and the construction of its first cold store on the docks at Grimsby.

From this base, Christian

Salvesen moved into the rapidly-expanding market for frozen and chilled food, supplying customers such as J. Sainsbury and Marks and Spencer. It also invested in food processing and packing factories, and then applied its experience abroad.

However, logical this diversification looks in retrospect, it was anything but straightforward to carry out. Along the way, Christian Salvesen has been forced by heavy losses to pull out of deep-sea fishing and to cut back its fish processing businesses. It failed in a fresh food distribution venture and a North Sea oil drilling ship proved unprofitable.

It is a pressure from shareholders wanting to create a market in its shares which is bringing the company to the Stock Exchange. About three-quarters of the 1,000 shareholders are members of the founding family, the rest employees of a few institutions, including Church of Scotland, which received its stake in a Salvesen bequest.

The company hopes to raise a "modest" amount of money for its own needs, but the funds are not earmarked for any particular use.

Mr Elliot does not expect Christian Salvesen to become an acquisitive business. With the exception of its U.S. cold store company and diesel generator operation, it has made very few acquisitions. Mr Elliot says: "We have built up our business ourselves. We prefer internal growth to acquisition."

## Chemicals fire 'could have led to disaster'

By Tony Jackson

A CHEMICALS fire which caused the evacuation of 1,000 people could have led to a disaster, a Health and Safety Executive report suggests.

The fire thought to have been caused by welding operations, caused a reaction between chemicals stored in a warehouse owned by shipping and storage group Powell Duffryn.

As a result of the fire and explosions at Cory's Warehouse in Ipswich on October 14, 1982, Powell Duffryn Shipping Services was fined £2,200 under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The warehouse contained 10,700 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertilisers, 26 tonnes of potassium nitrate, 187 tonnes of charcoal and various inflammable goods.

Potassium nitrate and charcoal combining with sulphur to make gunpowder: on its own, the mixture is on the UK list of authorised explosives under the name of sulphurised meal.

The report contains a list of plants all within less than a quarter of a mile from the Warehouse to which the fire might have spread.

These include: a warehouse containing 3,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertilisers.

A gas holder storing up to 28,300 cu m of natural gas.

Tank farms holding 7,685 tonnes of petroleum spirit and 12,312 tonnes of diesel, kerosene and gas oil, plus a 30-tonne capacity liquefied petroleum gas tank. Some of these were being unloaded from ships at the time of the fire.

A brewery containing 2 tonnes of LFG, 40 tonnes of carbon dioxide and 10,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil.

Within three-quarters of a mile from the warehouse are residential property, shopping streets, colleges, schools and recreational parks. No injury or death resulted from the fire, says the report, but "it would be unwise to assume that consequences did not exist."

Powell Duffryn is not alone in experiencing such warehouse fires in recent years. Other prominent examples include the fire and explosion at B & R Hauliers at Salford in September 1982, and the fire at Brightside in Sheffield last December.

Recent regulations covering hazardous chemical plants do not cover chemicals in warehouses. It is proposed that new regulations should be laid before parliament late next year.

## Freeson loses constituency reselection fight

By John Hunt

MR REG FREESON has become the biggest casualty of Labour's reselection battle so far, with the announcement that he is withdrawing from the contest in Brent East, his London constituency.

This has opened the possibility that Mr Ken Livingstone, left-wing leader of the GLC, will be chosen as the Labour candidate for the constituency at the next General Election.

Last night Mr Freeson, who has fought a hard struggle to be reselected, announced his decision to back out of the contest with a long and bitter denunciation of the members of the hard left who have mounted a campaign against him.

He said he will stay on as MP, but would not elaborate on his plans, except that he has no intention of fighting another seat. This has given rise to speculation that he could decide to contest Brent East as an independent Labour candidate.

Mr Freeson, 59, was Minister of Housing and Construction in the last Labour Government. He was returned for Brent East in February 1974.

## BA chief optimistic over Laker case

By Duncan Campbell-Smith

LORD KING, the chairman of British Airways, yesterday appeared optimistic over the airline's continuing efforts to extricate itself from its legal difficulties in the U.S.

He said: "One or two points" still needed to be negotiated regarding the airline's pursuit of an out-of-court settlement to the \$1.05bn (£985m) suit brought against BA and 12 others by Mr Christopher Morris, a liquidator of Laker Airways. Lord King thought the remaining differences between the parties "should be tidied up in the next few weeks."

Lord King was speaking

during a visit to Hoog Koon as a member of Lord Young's trade delegation to China.

The BA chairman's reassuring confidence contrasted with the apparent despondency of the airline's senior management last week, when clear signals were given that BA's talks with the Export-Import Bank (Exim) of the U.S.—crucial to any Laker settlement—had reached an impasse.

Neither BA nor Exim would comment on the content of their discussions this week.

Mr Marshall yesterday morning left London for Washington on his third Coccodrile flight over the Atlantic in four days.

He had talks with officials of Exim Bank, led by Mr Bill Draper, its chairman, on Tuesday and Wednesday, before returning to London on Thursday morning. Another meeting in Washington was scheduled for last night.

"It's doing a lot for our load on the North Atlantic, but the yield is not very good," said the airline. Neither BA nor Exim would comment at all on the content of their intense discussions this week, nor is it clear how much if any significance should be attached to the disappearance of BA's pessimism a week ago.

## Bitter exchanges in the licence fee feud

### Raymond Snoddy looks at the BBC's quest for more revenue

THE WAR of words is becoming more bitter as the BBC campaign for a £65 licence fee enters its final lap.

Mr Stuart Young, BBC chairman, claimed this week that the inquiry the Home Office Commissioned for into the corporation's efficiency had "verified the justice" of the BBC's case.

A senior member of the staff of Peat Marwick, Mitchell, the accounting and management consultancy firm which carried out the "Value for Money" review then let it be known the firm thought Mr Young—himself an accountant—was guilty of "selective reading" of the report.

### Breached etiquette

The BBC is not amused that a firm to which it will be paying more than £250,000 for the consultancy work appears to have breached the etiquette of its discreet trade.

It is largely a semantic debate. The terms of reference were agreed in talks between the Home Office, Peat Marwick and the BBC. They were: "To ascertain and report on what reasonable expectations exist of the corporation achieving economies

through increased efficiency, while maintaining the range and quality of existing services."

The BBC argued that the economies identified were "at the margin." To Peat Marwick, the key was the BBC's need to strengthen accountability, make better use of management information and exert more pressure to achieve results.

Just as the ripples from the Value for Money report were starting to fade, stories started appearing yesterday in the lobby system in the House of Commons that the BBC would be required to take advertising to "raise the money it desperately needs."

The truth seems to be, at least for the moment, less dramatic.

No decision has been taken on the amount of the licence fee or on what period it should run for. The BBC wants £65 for the next three years. Over the past year, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said he favoured a licence fee to be maintained for three years because it encouraged efficient planning and use of resources.

Now the Home Office will not be committed to a specific period, emphasising merely that it is likely to be "longer rather than shorter."

However, it looks increasingly as though a licence fee settlement will be accompanied by an inquiry into the financing of broadcasting. This would be held before the next licence fee round.

Expectations of an inquiry are high among Conservative backbenchers and would be an important safety valve if the licence fee settlement turned out to be higher than some of the right expect.

The Home Office has been looking at various options in case an inquiry is asked for. The main option at the moment is an inquiry into British broadcasting as a whole. There is a strong argument that issues such as advertising on the BBC cannot be looked at in isolation.

Reports that the Government will give the BBC an interim one year increase pending an inquiry ignore the future effects of direct broadcasting by satellite.

The Government has spent 18 months trying to encourage the launch of a DBS project and give a boost to the civil aerospace industry in space and the consumer electronics industry on the ground.

The BBC is due to take 50 per cent of the multi-million pound project, the ITV companies 30 per cent with five non-broadcasting organisations led by Thorn EMI taking the rest.

It is inconceivable the BBC would go ahead with a DBS project if faced with a one year licence fee settlement and an uncertain future.

### Forced job losses

The corporation would also pull out if the amount of the settlement forced job losses and drastic cuts in operation. It is extremely unlikely that the ITV companies would be prepared to take on the project themselves.

Britain faces problems over DBS at a time when the French are pushing ahead with their plans. The first French DBS satellite could be covering most of Britain with five channels of programmes—some possibly in English—by the autumn of 1986.

## ECONOMIC DIARY

TODAY: Conservative local government conference, Kensington Town Hall.

TOMORROW: Scottish Labour Party annual conference, Perth. French cantonal elections, first round.

MONDAY: February provisional figures for retail sales, and for producer price index numbers. Fourth quarter food facts. EEC Finance Council meets, Brussels. UN conference on emergency aid to Africa, Geneva. EEC Agriculture Ministers start two-day meeting, Brussels. European Parliament session opens, Strasbourg (to March 15). Nato briefing on U.S.-Soviet arms talks, Brussels.

MR SPYROS KYPRIANOU, Cypriot President, meets Sir Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary-General, Geneva. Bank for International Settlements starts two-day meeting, Basel. OECD export credits meeting, Paris.

FRIDAY: Fourth quarter figures for construction output. February figures for usable production. EEC Energy Ministers meet in Brussels.

Science research spending rises

RESEARCH and development on science and technology counted for an estimated per cent of Trade and Industry Department expenditure 1984-85. According to departmental statistics, this compares with 21.3 per cent in 1983-84, 12 per cent in 1982-83, 6.2 per cent in 1981-82, 1980-81, and 6.3 per cent in 1979-80.

## Robin Returns



Once again peril stalks the Greenwood. Robin's men stand alone against forces more sinister than they know...

### ROBIN OF SHERWOOD

This much praised series returns to the ITV screen. Michael Praed, Nickolas Grace, Judi Trott, Anthony Valentine, Oliver Tobias, John Nettles, Gemma Craven and Rula Lenska head an outstanding cast.

Filmed on location. Produced by Paul Knight. Directed by Robert Young, James Allen and Alex Kirby. Executive Producer, Patrick Dromgoole.

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# Rates revolt set to enter more complex phase

BY ROBIN FAULEY

THE GOVERNMENT has overcome the first big threat to its rate-capping proposals only to face a larger and potentially more complex revolt.

Three of the four rate-capped upper-tier councils which are legally required to set a rate for 1985-86 by tomorrow complied with the law on Thursday. They are Merseyside, South Yorkshire and the Inner London Education Authority.

The fourth, the Greater London Council, delayed its budgetary meeting until yesterday and a final decision may not be taken until tomorrow evening, shortly before the midnight deadline.

It was always regarded as the more likely to defy the law and once it had complied, defiance by the GLC seemed unlikely, although not impossible.

By their lengthy and vociferous defiance followed by restraint at the last minute, the councils boxed themselves into a position where Mr Patrick Jenkin, Environment Secretary, appeared to have won by default.

His judgement proved sound that he should do nothing in the belief that the councils would eventually concur rather than face personal surcharge, bankruptcy and disqualification from office.

The upper tier councils however, are only four of the 15 councils to be rate-capped in 1985-86. The one Conservative, Portsmouth, accepted its rate limit of 26.88p in the pound. But of the other 13 councils on the list only Basildon accepted the Government's rate cap. The London Borough of Brent deferred a decision until after the result of the GLC meeting.

The other 11 councils all voted on Thursday not to fix a rate. They are Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, Leicester, Lewisham, Sheffield, Southwark and Thamesdown.

In addition two big city councils not on the rate-capping list, Manchester and Liverpool, also agreed not to fix a rate in a show of Labour solidarity.

There is no legal deadline for lower-tier councils to set a rate although conventionally they have usually done so by April 1,

the start of the financial year. So Thursday's declarations by lower-tier councils not to fix a rate are less crucial and do not mean that they will eventually fail to do so.

It is unlikely that many, if any, will push their resistance to the extreme with members going bankrupt and being disqualified.

Many may continue after April 1 without a rate, as Liverpool City did last year. However, Mr Jenkin is unlikely to repeat last year's tactics when he allowed Liverpool to argue and delay for several months before a cosmetic conclusion was reached enabling both sides to claim a victory.

Faced with a similar situation in several big cities and several parts of central London, Mr Jenkin could decide that no rate qualifies for no grant rather than paying grant on an assumed rate, as he did for Liverpool last year.

In that case, deficits would quickly arise and either rate-payers or the district auditor—or both—would initiate legal proceedings, taking the issue out of the Government's arena, very quickly.

## Steel urges sacking of MacGregor and Scargill

By John Hunt

MR DAVID STEEL, the Liberal leader, called on the Government last night to sack Mr Ian MacGregor, as chairman of the National Coal Board, and for the National Union of Mineworkers to get rid of Mr Arthur Scargill, its president.

He told the Welsh Liberal Party conference in Swansea that Mr MacGregor had been a human disaster and had played straight into the hands of the militants.

He said the Government should "put Mr MacGregor on his bike and give it a good shove towards the sunset."

Mr Steel also accused Mr Scargill of arrogant misuse of his office to promote bloody class war and said his union should send him packing.

Dr David Owen, SDP leader, speaking in Liverpool, said the SDP-Liberal Alliance's alternative budget proposals would reduce unemployment by 50,000 in the North-west this year and by nearly 140,000 over three years.

He accused the Prime Minister and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, of mullahish obstinacy in refusing to change their economic policies to reduce unemployment.

Mr Tom King, Employment Secretary, told a Conservative meeting in Minehead that the end of the miners' strike marked the end of an era of senseless confrontation in industrial relations. It was an opportunity for moderate, intelligent trade union leaders to establish realism and democracy.

The days of trade-unionism by subscription were over, he said. The way for union leaders to succeed in the eyes of their members was to listen to their views and serve their interests.

# TUC organisation study approved

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

TRADE UNION leaders yesterday endorsed a fresh attempt by the TUC to improve unions' organisation and recruitment, including a warning that the outlook for British unions, though not necessarily pessimistic, is difficult.

A conference of senior union officials—part of the TUC strategy exercise launched last year to examine the unions' role—recognised the value of the TUC continuing to work constructively in this area in the face of considerable continued challenges to the union movement.

Union leaders approved a far-reaching document on union organisation, the first sustained examination by the unions of this area since the strategy document was itself published a year ago.

Much of the internal document raises key questions for unions to consider. However its critical look at union membership and organisation falls into four broad areas:

● Union organisation in the recession. The outlook for union activity is uncertain, says the study, which notes that traditionally been strong, such

as manufacturing, and male manual workers, are likely to continue their decline. Areas where they have been weak—non-manuals, women, part-time workers, smaller establishments, the service sector—are likely to continue expanding.

● Individual union responses. The TUC, for the first time, argues strongly for a complete change in the balance of work in unions to give greater emphasis to recruitment, a "central task" for unions is to set clear organisational aspects to respond to changing employment environments.

It recognises potential problems as serious, although it is a rule that existing members are understandably more concerned about the services they receive from their union, while activists are often more concerned about issues of union policy or promoting changes in structure.

The document endorses the need, promoted by the Government in its Trade Union Act 1984, for membership recording systems, to note quickly any significant changes in membership. Areas in which unions should respond. For this, computers

would be a help.

● Possible areas for union expansion. Perhaps the most controversial section of the TUC's document is the organisation of so-called "sunrise" high technology industries, covering workers "who do not immediately perceive the value or appeal of trade unionism, some and... companies, foreign owned, which are hostile to trade unionism."

The TUC partly endorses the strategy of the electricians' union EETPU in this field, suggesting that "in such circumstances, the most practicable way to increase union organisation might be to seek to develop relationships with employers, particularly those opening new plants, and to conclude agreements on the best possible terms."

Even though such deals "might not be entirely satisfactory," they would provide a basis for further recruitment. An alternative, or possibly a combined approach, might involve building up a nucleus of committed trade unionists from which unions could expand.

Other areas of expansion include the self-employed, women workers, ethnic minority groups and young people.

● Role of the TUC. The paper accepts that traditionally, the TUC's involvement in union organisation has been limited. It suggests the TUC should carry on with its present work in this field, such as maintaining inter-union disputes, training, providing information and running campaigns.

However, it says unions must now consider the question of whether the TUC can extend its role into such areas as regular reviewing of employment trends and their implications for union organisation, as well as providing general help with recruitment.

Overall, the paper argues for unions to adopt flexible strategies to allow them to adapt to the changing economic climate, to show a willingness to examine critically their existing recruitment methods and to consider, "whether the appeal of trade unionism is sensitive to the needs and aspirations of different categories of existing and potential members."

## Decision denied on nuclear tip

By Ivor Owen

MR WILLIAM Waldergrave, a junior Environment minister, assured the Commons yesterday that the Government had taken no "secret decision" on the choice of a site for disposing of nuclear waste.

He was replying to a debate in which Bedfordshire MPs underlined the concern aroused by the earlier announcement that a site in their county at Etkow is one of three to be investigated for the shallow burial of short-lived intermediate and low level waste.

## BCal retains cheap fare

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH CALEDONIAN, the independent airline, will continue to sell its cheap tickets from Gatwick to Frankfurt, in spite of the West German government rejecting them for passengers originating in Germany.

Under its Time Flyer scheme for cheap fares, BCal is offering rates between £24 and £24 return, according to time of travel. The cheapest comparable return rate out of Frankfurt is DM 496 (£137) return. Under the Anglo-German air

agreement which lets airlines offer cheap fares, BCal can offer such rates from the UK, but needs West German approval to offer them from Frankfurt. This has been refused.

● BCal has leased a Boeing 747 "Combi" Jumbo jet, providing both passenger and cargo capacity, from Air of Jordan for its Gatwick-New York route starting on May 1. The aircraft will carry up to 250 passengers and 40 tonnes of cargo.

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The days of trade-unionism by subscription were over, he said. The way for union leaders to succeed in the eyes of their members was to listen to their views and serve their interests.

## Bridget Bloom on the reasons for a £1m reasearch contract

# Ferranti sets course for laser gyro system

MR PHILIP ATTERTON, managing director of Ferranti Defence Systems, has just helped his company win a contract from the Defence Ministry which in some ways he would rather not have.

The £1m contract is for developing a gyro which depends on lasers rather than conventional mechanical techniques to produce its answers on an aircraft's position. In line with the Government's competition policy in defence contracting, British Aerospace's division at Bracknell (formerly the Sperry Company) has been awarded a similar sum for analogous development work.

Mr Atterton says wryly that Ferranti has to develop the gyro or risk going out of the inertial systems business it has been in since 1943. Its reluctance arises because the wide range of conventional gimbal-mounted gyros Ferranti makes for virtually all Britain's military aircraft work perfectly well: the only clear advantage the ring laser gyro looks like having is easier maintenance, with longer life cycle costs.

On present showing the laser based systems will not be cheaper, more reliable or more accurate. And in Britain at least, the only obvious market

for the system is the future European fighter aircraft which is the subject of pre-drawing board wrangles between the aerospace industries of Britain, France, Italy, West Germany and Spain.

It is relatively unusual in the defence world for a revolutionary technique, such as ring lasers, to produce such a comparatively evolutionary change—although it is certainly not the only case in that world where companies, or governments feel they have to follow where scientific discovery leads, in spite of there being no immediate or obvious cost effective advantage.

For the time being, however, the comparatively small advantage from ring laser gyros is matched by the small sums and relatively low effort needed to keep the programme going.

For the Defence Ministry, which will have invested less than £5m, including the latest contracts, the sums are seen as seed corn for future harvest.

For the companies, the need to remain up with and ahead of the game if possible is vital. Two U.S. companies—Honeywell and Litton—already make ring laser gyros for the civilian

Boeing 757 and 767 airliners and as far as Ferranti is concerned, neither Mr Atterton nor his colleagues is in the fuddy-duddy all's-well-with-the-world-as-it-is mould. No one forgets the lesson of the Swiss watch maker who said that digital would never catch on.

Inertial navigation systems (INS) account for about a quarter of Ferranti Defence Systems £170m annual business. Compared with it BAE is a novice. The company's big coup involved supplying gyro systems to all 309 Tornado combat aircraft being ordered by the RAF, the Luftwaffe and the Italian air force. But the company also supplies INS for the Harrier jump jet, the Buccaneer, Jaguar and the Nimrod in both the maritime reconnaissance and the airborne early warning versions.

From its original second world war work on gun sights and other aiming devices, Ferranti now boasts INS sales covering all 12 European satellite space launchers, survey and navigation work for the army and undersea surveying for the oil industry.

The company's work on ring laser gyro started seven years ago, partly as a result of the

close contact Ferranti (like other defence companies in comparable positions) maintains with the Defence Ministry's research establishments. In the past four years, two prototypes have been put through more than 1,000 hours of test supervision by the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

The latest programme will refine the processes used, concentrating on reducing the systems size and weight and improving its performance. Mr Atterton reckons on being able to produce fully reliable ring laser gyros within four years—certainly in time to bid into the European fighter programme.

By then, the two companies involved could well have spent up to £4m each, with the Defence Ministry spending matching sums.

The future of ring laser gyros for the companies will obviously be determined by the orders they win—or lose. For the Government at that time the decisions may well be difficult.

The initial investment will presumably predispose ministers to award production contracts in Britain, thus maintaining British firmly in the inertial navigation business.

## S. Wales NUM seeks money back

By Raymond Hughes, Law Courts Correspondent

THE SOUTH WALES area of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday asked a High Court judge to end the sequestration that has frozen area funds since August.

The union will, however, have to wait until Monday to learn whether Mr Justice Scott will agree that it has purged its contempt of court that led to £50,000 in fines and the sequestration.

The judge adjourned the case until Monday after being told by counsel for the sequestrators that there were matters they wished to draw to his attention. The matter, said Mr Howard Page, "ought have been heard either on the terms on which the sequestration should be discharged, or on what you should regard as sufficient action by the union to purge its contempt."

The fines and sequestration resulted from the South Wales area's disobedience of an order made last April to stop interfering with the lorries of two Gloucestershire haulage companies—Richard Head (Transport) and George W. Read—carrying coke from the Port Talbot works of the British Steel Corporation.

The sequestrators seized £706,986 of the area's funds, out of which the fines were paid. The balance of the assets had remained frozen.

Yesterday Mr Jeremy McMillen, for the South Wales NUM, said the union wanted to get back to business and get its money back.

Earlier yesterday South Wales had failed to get the immediate lifting of an injunction made last month restricting to six the number of pickets permitted at five collieries in South Wales. Mr Justice Scott adjourned the case for two weeks.

● New Scotland Yard yesterday announced the closure of its National Reporting Centre, which co-ordinated police deployment throughout the miners' strike. It will be reopened in the event of a similar national crisis.

## Ballot backs newspaper dispute

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

THE NATIONAL Graphical Association's dispute with the Wolverhampton Express and Star over new technology and collective bargaining rights has been backed by 154 votes to 33 in a secret ballot of its members.

However, the dispute has now spilled over into the rest of the provincial press following the union's decision to withdraw, at least temporarily, from the annual pay talks with the Newspaper Society.

The union believes by not pressing the Express and Star to stick to the national dispute procedure, the NS has deliberately undermined its own agreement.

Senior NS officials responded

by claiming that before the dispute had even begun the NGA had indirectly broken with procedure by pressurising companies which have bought equipment from Press Computer Systems, a sister company of the Express and Star.

Commenting on yesterday's ballot results, Mr Tony Dobbins, NGA general secretary, said: "As the company forced us to re-ballot, we require them also to abide by the result and lift the suspension on our members."

The union complied with a court order won by the company last week, insisting on a ballot of the terms of the 1984 Trade Union Act.

Although the company ex-

pressed some 'disquiet' at the way the ballot was conducted, a spokesman said it would not return to court "for the moment." Talks with the conciliation service Acas took place yesterday and are expected to continue next week.

Mr Dobbins rejected a suggestion that the whole new agreement be re-negotiated, saying it was like "having your house burgled and then arguing into negotiations with the burglar about what he is going to let you have back."

NGA members were suspended when they refused to co-operate with the company's move to single key stroking in the classified advertisement department.

## Postal workers warn of 'serious trouble'

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

THERE IS a serious possibility of widespread industrial action in the Post Office next month, according to Mr Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, the corporation's main union.

Speaking on the BBC's World at One radio programme, he said: "There will be real trouble." If the management carries out its threat to unilaterally implement new working practices.

In spite of the rejection of some key parts of the Post Office's reform proposals by a special union conference, there will be further talks next week between senior UCUW officials and the Post Office.

Both sides however, have little room to manoeuvre. The

Post Office wrote to the union on January 8 giving three months' notice of an end to the agreement which sets a ceiling on the employment of part-time staff.

The UCUW conference specifically prevented the union's negotiators compromising on the issue of an extension of part-time workers—what the Post Office says is necessary to fit the "peaks and troughs" nature of the business and cut down overtime payments.

The other area where compromise was rejected—the question of a mandatory productivity scheme—is more open to compromise.

On new technology the conference did give the union executive the flexibility it was seeking.



Mr Alan Tiffin: Real possibility of action

## Teachers to sue over pay docking

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

THE National Union of Teachers' national executive decided yesterday to take legal action against local authorities carrying out threats to dock the pay of teachers taking disruptive sanctions.

The union is to begin immediate action against Labour-controlled Newcastle upon Tyne council, which decided earlier this week to deduct £2 from teachers each time they refused to cover for an absent colleague.

Mr Doug McAvoy, the NUT's deputy general secretary, said: "Authorities are trying to intimidate our members from following the line of the union. The unions is not willing to allow them to do so."

The swift reaction by the NUT to Newcastle's move can be seen as an attempt to deter other authorities from following suit. Although more than half the 104 authorities have threatened to dock pay, no more than a handful have declared their firm intention to do so.

A court action will prove an important test of the NUT's belief that its national sanctions affect only voluntary duties, as opposed to the employers' view that the duties concerned are contractual.

The NUT said yesterday that leading counsel had advised that any pay docking could be challenged in court. However, employers' leaders have received advice that conflicts with this and claim clear precedents in law, though not specifically in the field of teaching.

The teachers' unions yesterday accepted an invitation by the conciliation service Acas, to discuss the continuing pay dispute in England and Wales, while contending that their interests remained purely the prospect of resuming full talks with the employers.

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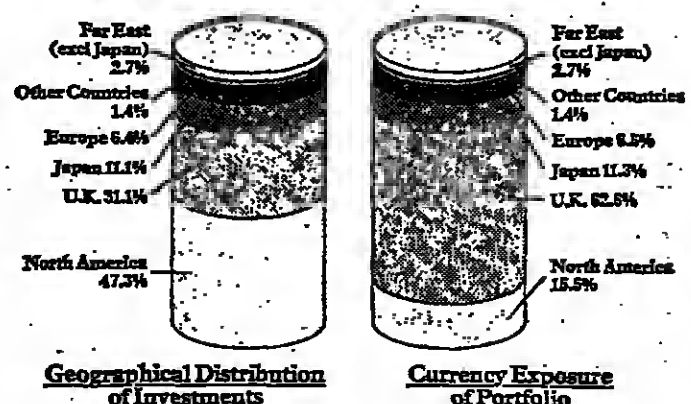
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# THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

THE MINERS' strike officially ended this week. But the equity market had written off the strike long ago so it was not surprising that the sight of columns of miners walking back to the pits had little impact on share prices. On Monday the FT 30-Share Index rose 4.9 points, which is neither here nor there for an index close to 1,000.

The corporate reporting season, meantime, has got into full swing following the traditional starting point of ICI's full year results last week. The financial sector dominated the scene with the "Big Four" clearing all reporting 1984 results and three major composite insurance groups showing some very poor figures.

But if the analysts were kept late at their desks crunching the numbers the dealers on the trading floor had a relatively quiet week. The market generally has been subdued with the odd burst of activity around bids and the occasional rumour. Yet a dull market ahead of the Budget is the norm anyway.

On the currencies and interest rate front the markets were treated to what has become the same old story. After the setback in the middle of last week the dollar remained relatively strong till Wednesday when there was a sharp downward revision following another testimony by Mr Paul Volcker to Congress. His views triggered a fall on the day but since then the currency has regained its composure and looks set to flex its muscles again.

## Holding its breath till Budget

### Harrods' lats sale

At last the long-running saga that has surrounded House of Fraser appears to be drawing to a close. The "immensely wealthy" Al-Fayed family has made an agreed offer of 400p a share in cash, putting a value of £615m on the department store chain.

The price looks more than fair and with the starting point of a near 30 per cent holding in Fraser, observers might think the group's fate is sealed. But if the Al-Fayed offer is high enough to leave most other prospective bidders out of the running, there is at least one other company which would dearly love to own Fraser with its Harrods flagship.

For years Lomrho has been trying to win control of Fraser. It was blocked from bidding four years ago by a Monopolies report, but this week that decision was overturned in a second report. Now Mr "Tiny" Rowland must await a ruling from Mr Norman Tebbit next week on whether it is free or not to resume his pursuit of the retail group. Mr Tebbit will also decide on the question of a Monopolies' investigation into the Al-Fayed bid.

The chances of the offer from the Egyptian brothers being referred seem virtually non-existent, however. They already control 39.9 per cent of the

### LONDON

#### ONLOOKER

equity — paradoxically bought from Lomrho last November for 300p a share — and they have no other retailing presence in the UK apart from their seats on the Fraser board.

Assuming the Government leaves the way open for competing bids, the obvious doubt is Lomrho's ability to mount a counter-offer. No matter how strong the emotional desire to own Harrods may be within the Lomrho board room, the reality of a £430m market capitalisation makes that desire somewhat difficult to fulfil.

Possibly Lomrho could put together a consortium or perhaps arrange temporary finance on the basis that Fraser assets could be realised after a takeover. Harrods is the jewel in the crown, though there are 100-odd other stores worth, perhaps, £200m. But a valuation is one thing, trying to sell large chunks of high street footprints from a position of a forced seller could prove quite different numbers.

Harrods could have made around £30m pre-tax for the year to January last for a group total of £50m. On that basis the

Al-Fayed bid represents an exit multiple of over 20. Harrods is basking in the sunshine of a strong dollar and arguably it is close to peak profitability. So 400p a share is a fairly generous valuation that few other UK retailers could contemplate matching let alone improving upon.

Yet anyone determined to own Harrods is probably willing to pay a premium price for it. The Al-Fayeds have led the way. Lomrho is still in the picture and the chances of a rival offer, perhaps from the U.S., cannot be ruled out this early.

### Uniformly dismal

Results from the three composite insurance companies this week—Royal, General Accident and Commercial Union—turned out to be uniformly dismal. Royal's profits fell from £98.4m to £11.2m for 1984. GA collapsed to £3.9m against £65.6m and CU produced a £72.8m loss against a profit of £9.3m. The latter now has the dubious distinction of turning in the worst performance on record by a composite insurer.

The share prices, however, held up well to this barrage of ghastly figures. Both Royal and GA pushed up their dividends and CU held its unchanged despite the losses but the reason for the firmness in the shares goes much deeper than that. The market believes that a recovery is on the way.

It would be optimistic to think in terms of anything but poor results for the next couple of quarters though by the second half of this year profits should start to pick-up quite rapidly. By 1986 the recovery should be in full swing—all the analysts concur on that though predictions for 1985 are all over the place.

Premium rates are hardening especially in the U.S., a market which has caused the UK groups a considerable amount of grief recently and prompted CU dramatically to shrink its exposure. Last year Royal's underwriting losses in the U.S. rose from £139.9m to £236.2m while GA losses there climbed from £56.3m to £136.1m. Both groups also reported sharp increases in underwriting deficits from Canada.

Apart from the better rates on U.S. commercial lines the UK figures are also improving and rates on household structure business (basically the insurance part through the building societies) are climbing. The upturn became apparent towards the end of 1984 and has most expectations. The shares,

which have outpaced the market by an eighth over the last three months, climbed a further £1 on the news to £12.50.

This year a great deal will depend upon the battle for supremacy in the U.S. detergents market. Procter and Gamble and Lever Brothers are locked in combat in the heavy duty end of the American detergents sector. P and G's Liquid Tide is grabbing market share—though at some cost to its older Tide product—but Lever is stoutly defending itself to the point that it too is taking market share. The cost of the promotional drive, however, is seriously denting U.S. profits while new product launches—equally expensive exercises—are bound to further erode dollar earnings.

The other factor which could upset earnings in the early months of 1985 is the EEC's decision to distribute subsidised butter and that will do no good at all to the edible fats division. So the inclusion of Brooke Bond this year for 15 months (no contribution was made to the 1984 figures) could be vital in keeping up the momentum at the profits line. Brooke Bond could be worth as much as £50m lifting the group total to, say, £1,050m.

Meantime the £86m extraordinary charge in the latest figure presages further disposals. Mallinson Denny—the timber business inside Brooke Bond—is surely on the way out and further disposals of UK peripheral activities from UAC look likely. Beam was recently sold and others will certainly follow. As for a big U.S. acquisition—that is always a possibility given the opportunity but there is no reason to suppose a billion-dollar deal is around the corner.

Both Eagle Star and Phoenix have lost their independence in recent history and there is no reason to assume that other predators are not eyeing up the sector. Perhaps CU deserves to be taken over though it would take someone with a great deal of confidence in his own ability to take on that company. Allianz would like a UK presence, though that might well take the shape of a substantial share stake rather than an outright takeover. One final thought is that U.S. insurance groups might scan the UK scene once their own market perks up and they have the advantage of dollar buying power.

### Unilever at £924m

The market has been viewing Unilever in a fresh light since the £389m takeover of Brooke Bond last October. The acquisition provided a catalyst for a reappraisal of the more vigorous management style evolving within the Anglo-Dutch group. But even so, few in the City had realised how fast Unilever was running at the tail-end of last year.

Full year profits, showing a 20 per cent rise to £924m pre-tax, were comfortably ahead of expectations. The shares,

which have outpaced the market by an eighth over the last three months, climbed a further £1 on the news to £12.50.

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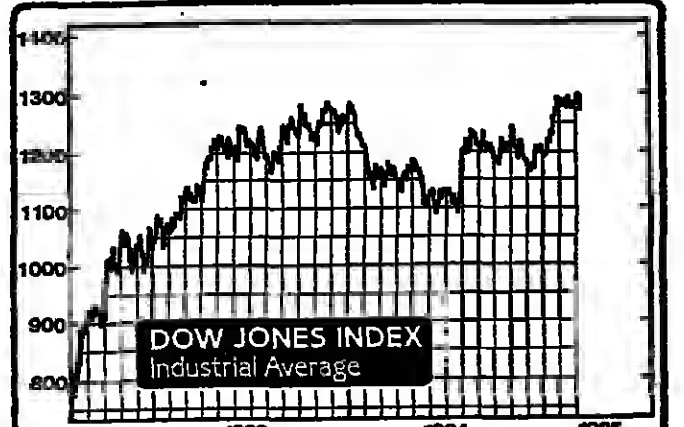
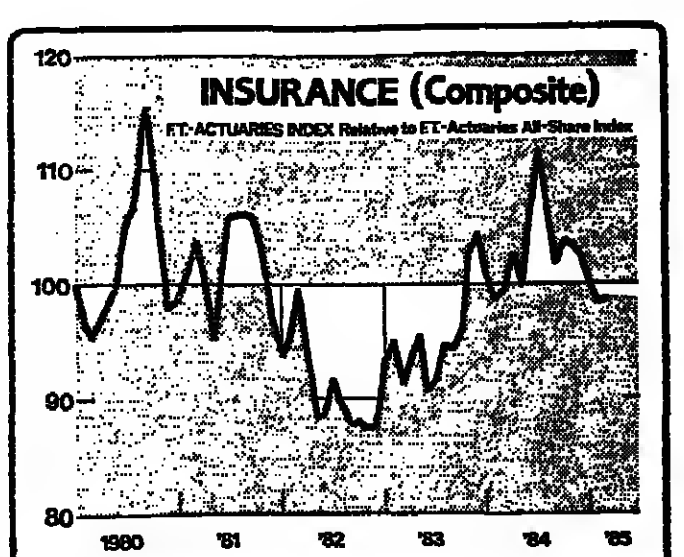
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### Banking season

The banking results season for the four English clearers has been compressed into the past week with Lloyds completing the picture yesterday. Overall there were no nasty shocks for the market to endure which perhaps says more about the way the banks handle their investor relations in the City these days than the figures themselves.

National Westminster got the show under way with a fair cracking set of figures. Pre-tax profits climbed by 30 per cent to £671m which was way above expectations. In terms of profits the market was to later discover that NatWest had taken the leading spot from rival Barclays. If the profit and loss account looked impressive, however, the balance sheet proved less encouraging.

Even after last year's £236m rights issue the effect of phasing out of capital allowances left



the balance sheet weakened. The tax changes have taken £570m of deferred tax out of retained earnings and shareholders' funds have shrunk by £242m. NatWest's free capital ratio is now down to 4.5 per cent.

Barclays' answer to its weakening free capital ratio was to launch a £507m rights issue this week. A cash call from Barclays had been half expected for some months although following the disposal of its stake in Bank of Scotland at the end of January for £155m some thought the bank would pass up the opportunity of a rights this week.

Barclays has chosen a one for one deeply discounted issue at 150p which lifts its free capital ratio to 5.5 per cent, the best in the sector. After Barclay's announcement the shares only fell 7p to 583p on the day despite a set of profits which failed to live up to expectations. Pre-tax the group rose from £557m to £655m but that was £20m or so shy of expectations.

Still at least the figures are heading the right way which is a darn sight more than can be said for Midland. The listening

bank did not win many friends with the way it presented its 1984 results. Pre-tax profits plunged by 40 per cent to £185m at the reported level after a £222m deficit on Crocker. At first sight it looked a great deal better than the analysts had expected. But it did not take a moment to find out how Midland had achieved this feat. The bank took a larger than expected profit of £184m on the sale of Crocker's head office into the pre-tax line which left precious little contribution from its activities as a banker.

Another small surprise was that Midland found its appropriate to make smaller provisions in 1984 for bad and doubtful assets than in 1983, Crocker aside that is. This is in sharp contrast to NatWest, Lloyds and Barclays which thought it prudent substantially to increase their provisions. The City sceptics believe Midland will either be caught out if it needs to step up provisions later on or left behind if the other banks have over-provided and can write the provisions back. Whatever happens Midland can't really win.

Terry Garrett

### MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price	Change	1984/5	1984/5	
FT 30 Ind. Index	988.1	+13.1	1,024.5	755.3	Good corporate profits
BAT Inds.	362	+27	386	175	Big trade in U.S. markets
Beecham	345	+18	390	285	Broker's re-rating
Birmid Quilcast	90	+7	108	49	Bid speculation
BP	557	+32	575	395	Excellent results
British Telecom	130	+11	134	88	Persistent institutional support
Burnett & Hallamshire	50	-20	205	50	Worries about financial str'n.
Calendonian Offshore	380	+60	380	185	
Goode Durrant & Murray	80	+10	83	42	Awaiting bid developments
Group Lotus Car	118	+27	118	54	Chrysler link speculation
Highland Electronics	121	+14	121	44	Investment recommendation
Highland Participants	239	+56	244	94	Expln. hopes/share placement
House of Fraser	402	+56	415	220	Alfayed bid of 400p per share
Invent Energy	900	+110	920	280	Exploration hopes
Jackson (J. & H.B.)	105	+21	110	50	Bid from Williams Hlgs.
Lex Service	200	-30	435	194	U.S. electronics div. problems
Ransomes Sims	610	+65	650	260	Bumper results/cap. proposals
Royal Bank of Scotland	258	+18	266	180	Rumours of stake build-up
Turiff Corp.	280	-62	345	188	Profits warning
Unilever	472	+7	472	835	Better-than-expected results

PRIVATE INVESTORS are as willing as ever to put their money into companies floated on the Over-the-Counter Market.

That is one of the conclusions of a new survey of the OTC published this week by accountants Spicer and Pegler. It says that of the 140 companies on the OTC to the end of last October, 110 had been floated in the previous two years.

Private investors have put up the bulk of the capital for these companies—the financial institutions have mostly stayed away, if only because few OTC companies are large enough to accommodate big shareholders.

As Spicer and Pegler points out, the attraction of the OTC is the chance to invest in young "high risk companies" which can grow very quickly if they turn out to be successful.

But are the risks in backing OTC companies worth taking? "Clearly, many of the potential dangers of investing in small, young companies are the same whether the shares are quoted on the OTC or the U.S.M."

Indeed, the OTC often can appear to be the more attractive market-place because OTC investments generally qualify for tax relief under the Business Expansion Scheme, under which individuals may deduct the price paid for their shares

## Risks on the OTC

from their total taxable income so long as they hold on to the shares for five years. Despite Stock Exchange representations to the Treasury, USM investors are denied this incentive, which improves the odds in backing a high-risk venture.

Critics of the OTC argue, however, that the merits of individual companies are overshadowed by the disadvantages inherent in the OTC market.

They claim that since the OTC is outside the control of the Stock Exchange, and has no overall regulatory body of its own, the checks on the quality of companies and on the activities of the dealers cannot be as good as on the U.S.M.

Isabel Unsworth, who follows the USM for broker Crispson Grant, says the best answer would be to bring the OTC under the wing of the Stock Exchange to create a regulated tertiary market.

But OTC traders generally say the last thing they want is to be controlled by a stock exchange—which in any case, moving towards liberalis-

## Unlisted Securities Market

ing the activities of its own members.

Moreover, they say that their own regulatory bodies are adequate. For dealers belong to the British Institute of Dealers in Securities (Bids) and another four to the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim).

Spicer and Pegler's view is that a stronger regulatory body is needed: "There is controversy over the practices of dealers and, in particular, there exists some real concern that the markets cannot develop properly in the absence of overall guidance from a regulatory body."

The accountants also share the doubts many investors have about the liquidity of the OTC market in many shares. One dealer, Granville and Company, makes a market in matched bargains only—that is, shares are traded only when buyers and sellers can be matched directly.

Other OTC dealers hold their own lines of stock in an attempt to create liquid markets. Most OTC stocks are quoted by a single dealer, though a few are dealt in by up to four market-makers.

The stock shortages are so great that about 10 per cent of shares are quoted "basis"—a hypothetical price the dealer would offer if any stock was available.

The problem is not that there is an absolute shortage of stock in the market—Spicer and Pegler estimate that about 25 of the 36 companies to come to the OTC in the year to last October offered at least 31 per cent of their equity—a proportion that compares favourably with the USM average of 34 per cent.

The difficulty, however, is that investors tend to lock their stock away—particularly in the case of issues qualifying for BES tax concessions.

Investors who back OTC companies have then significantly less opportunity than on the USM to realise their profits quickly.

This may not be a worry in a bull market; but if the stock market starts to fall, OTC investors may find it very difficult to sell.

Stefan Wagstyl

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SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 30-12-84

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# The trouble over triskaidekaphobia

NEW YORK  
WILLIAM HALL

U.S. SHARE prices marched ahead in January, marked time in February and began the month in fine form with the Dow Jones Industrial Average hitting a new peak of 1,299.36, a week ago yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended the second month of 1985 showing a net gain of around 80 points on the year to date. The New York Stock Exchange composite index, which tracks all the shares on the big board, finished February showing a 10 per cent rise on the year and the Nasdaq over-the-counter market was up by 16 per cent.

This week, U.S. share prices have been shedding some of their earlier gains as profit taking has set in. The more superstitious punters in the market have been blaming it all on triskaidekaphobia—fear of the number 13. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has popped above the 1,300 level on several occasions but has never managed to close above the magic figure.

Generally, analysts believe that the market will be able to break through the 1,300 level and hold its gains. Merrill Lynch's latest market letter, for example, says that "a rise to the low to mid 1,300s on the Dow Jones average is likely over the near term." After that it expects a "more significant phase of consolidation and correction could follow" but the firm does not expect any serious decline. We think the Dow Industrials could reach 1,400 to 1,500 by year end," says the world's biggest brokerage firm.

Wall Street's market watchers take comfort from the fact that while U.S. share prices have not moved ahead over the last six weeks they have at least held their ground in the face of bearish signals from the U.S. credit markets. Since mid-January short-term interest rates have risen by over 100 basis points, pushing the three-month Treasury bill rate above 8.75 per cent, its highest level so far this year.

The prices of fixed income securities have fallen sharply since the end of January. U.S. Treasury 11 per cent, due 2014, was trading at close to 97 on

Thursday evening compared with 108½ at the end of January. Nervousness over possible stronger-than-expected economic growth plus rapid monetary growth have taken their toll of U.S. bond prices.

The Federal Reserve has ended its easier credit policy and some analysts believe that the U.S. central bank may have already begun to rein in monetary growth. This week's \$3.6bn rise in M1, the nation's basic money supply, was much bigger than expected, and unless the above average growth in the U.S. money supply slows in the next few weeks, interest rates could be forced to rise still further.

In the meantime the action on Wall Street is focused on a wide variety of takeover situations. The shares of Phillips Petroleum have been among the most heavily traded on the big board. As expected the company's controversial recapitalisation plan was defeated and the company has been forced to come up with an alternative. It is swapping half of its shares for debt with a value of \$62 per share.

U.S. oil shares have been actively traded this week as investors tried to spot which will be the next oil company to fall prey to the increasingly wealthy predators. Mr T. Boone Pickens has already bought a stake of just under 10 per cent in Unocal, a rather staid West Coast oil company. Its shares have already risen by over \$10 this year.

Meanwhile, American Natural Resources shares, which started the year at \$38, have put on another \$9 this week after a hostile \$90 per share tender offer from Coastal Corporation. The company says coastal's offer is inadequate and by Thursday evening its shares were trading at \$61, indicating that Wall Street believes a higher bid is in the offing.

As a result of the takeover activity in the U.S. oil patch over the last 12 months, the number of sleepy oil companies who would make good takeover targets is fast disappearing and those which are left are putting up a much tougher fight which means that following the heavy gains seen in some oil shares over the last year, the fun may be nearly over.

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**THURSDAY** 1271.53 - 8.84

PUTTING your money into mining shares these days is rather like walking through a hall of distorting mirrors. Take the London based Consolidated Gold Fields for example, a company which for some years now has been regarded by some as offering a way to participate in the fortunes of the South African gold mining industry without the political risk attaching to a South African company.

It is not an argument that has impressed me, simply because if ever there should be an awful upheaval in South Africa, the mines that Gold Fields has invested in there would suffer along with the rest. And while the London group has other investments, about 40 per cent of its profits come from South African gold.

The worst aspect of distorting mirrors these days is, of course, the fluctuating exchange rates and Gold Fields has lost on this score in the past six months to December 31. While the U.S. dollar price of gold fell, the weakness of the South African rand resulted in the price in the latter currency rising by 30 per cent to record levels.

The rand also fell against the much maligned value of

## MINING NEWS

# Walking in the Hall of Mirrors

sterling, to the disadvantage of Gold Fields and other UK holders of South African gold shares. The increased rand dividends paid by the latter when converted into sterling left the recipients worse off than before. Gold Fields' income from South Africa fell 4 per cent in the period.

Fortunately, the decline in mining income generally of Gold Fields was offset by an improvement in the UK and U.S. construction material businesses and the group also did well in its sharedealing activities. The net result was a slightly increased net profit of £26.6m, or 14.2p per share, against £25.3m and an unchanged interim dividend of 8.5p net.

The group expects a similar pattern in the rest of the year to June 30. This does not raise much hope of any increase in the final dividend, especially while the group is still keeping its eyes open for quick-return

new investments and is determined to reduce its borrowings; this it hopes to do by a £150-£200m programme of sales of "non-strategic" assets.

Gold Fields is a company of calibre and the shares stand at a discount to assets of 38 per cent. They also offer what is considered a good return of 7 per cent, but whether all this is sufficient to sustain shareholders' patience is arguable when no major improvement in fortunes seems likely over the next year or so.

Another "seven percent" is the Afrikaner-controlled General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor) mining and industrial finance group. Unlike Gold Fields, the South African group enjoyed a 24 per cent rise in its gross income last year thanks to a rise in rand revenue from its export sales, notably base and precious metals.

However, Gencor has not emerged unscathed from the

Hall of Mirrors. In this case the group decided earlier last year that because interest rates were so high in South Africa—they are around 25 per cent—it would be cheaper to borrow abroad. What Gencor did not realise at the time was that the rand would continue to fall heavily against foreign currencies, notably the U.S. dollar.

This meant that interest rate repayments on the increased loans became far more expensive in terms of rand. In fact, costs under this heading soared to R450.2m (£222m) from R180.5m in 1983. In addition, unrealised currency losses of R77.1m have been deferred for future amortisation, the hope being that the rand will recover.

Gencor also had to pay rising prices in rand for its imports while there were losses of R108.8m at its Tedex electrical goods subsidiary and the Kanynam farming operations.

At the end of the day, Gencor has come out with a 1984

net profit of R238m, or 321 cents per share, against R311m. The dividend has been maintained at 190 cents and Mr Ted Pavitt, the chairman, hopes that things will be a little better this year when the full exchange rate benefits to export sales should be felt.

The Hall of Mirrors has been kinder in the six months to December 31 to the smaller Anglovaal South African mining and industrial house. Not only did its earnings from mining company investments benefit from the exchange rates but also its industrial companies managed to maintain profits despite tough conditions in the domestic market.

Anglovaal has thus raised its earnings by 51 per cent to R81.2m in the period from R20.6m. It is also reasonably confident about prospects for the full year to June 30 and has thus lifted its interim by 10 cents to 100 cents; the previous year's final was 225 cents.

Things have also been looking up for the Anglo American group's big South African gold share holding company, Anglo American Gold Investment (Anggold). In the first half of Anggold's year, which runs to February 28, income sagged and the company, which pays out most of its earnings in dividends, was obliged to reduce its interim.

During the second half, however, the benefits of the rise in the South African gold price began to come through and together with a useful increase in interest received Anggold has emerged from the full year with a net profit only slightly lower at R236.1m against R238.6m.

Earnings would have been higher but for the fact that lower dividends were paid by some of the mines with financial years ending in September.

The benefits of the rising price in the rand gold price in the final quarter of 1984 should thus come through to Anggold in the current year. Meanwhile, the final dividend for 1984-85 has been increased to 550 cents to make an unchanged total of 1,025 cents.

Kenneth Marston

# A wife's secret and the taxman

I am a housewife at home and until now my husband has paid my tax for me. I have decided to pay my own tax and as I have only about £5,000 capital, perhaps this will not apply to me yet. I am due to inherit about £30,000.

Also if I pay tax is my capital confidential between the taxman and me or does my husband become involved?

Is there any way I can avoid paying tax in the future apart from buying National Savings

Certificates which I understand are not declarable?

Ask your husband's tax adviser for the free explanatory pamphlet on separate assessment, IR32. You will see that elections for separate assessment (for income tax and CGT) must be submitted by July 5. Although separate assessment will mean that your husband will no longer know full details of your income and capital gains, he will be able to deduct the size of your income and the total of your chargeable gains. Eventually, of course,

the existing tax discrimination is virtually certain to be abandoned, as urged by the Equal Opportunities Commission, but the present Chancellor appears to be dragging his feet over this reform—in marked contrast to the speed with which he has implemented other more complex changes to longstanding tax principles.

Your elections for separate assessment to income tax (from 1985-86) and capital gains tax (from 1984-85) will continue automatically, until revoked by both of you. However, if you

also wish to stop your CGT losses being set against your husband's gains, you will have to give separate notice every year, before July 6, under section 4 (2) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979. Your husband will have to give similar notices every year, if he wishes to stop his losses being set against your gains.

Interest on an ordinary account with the National Savings Bank is exempt from tax up to £70 in each tax year (subject to what the Chancellor may say on March 19).

## FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I ask, and surely there must be only one correct answer. To which Government must I declare this money for income tax purposes?

If I do owe taxes to the U.S. Government, how do I go about making a declaration? I have no U.S. residence or employment, may I do I intend to have in the future.

As a U.S. non-resident citizen (married to a non-resident alien), you have a duty to file U.S. tax returns. Forms are obtainable from the U.S. Embassy. As a UK resident, presumably domiciled in one of the States of the U.S., you should be submitting UK tax returns upon the special forms 11K, which are designed for people domiciled overseas. If you were married before 1974, your wife shares your domicile, as a statutory domicile of choice, under section 1 (2) of the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973. Ask your UK tax inspector for a copy of the free explanatory booklet IR20 (residents and non-residents: liability to tax in the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, as UK).

## Victim of fraud

I have recently become the victim, with others, of a fraud involving some company shares for which I received purchase contract notes in the usual way but no share certificates. The shares were not in fact purchased by the licensed dealer although the payment was made by me.

The dealing company concerned is now in the hands of the official receiver and it would appear that we are to be considered as creditors of the company with little or no chance of recovering our funds on liquidation. In your opinion, could any loss sustained in this affair be set off as a loss for capital gains tax purposes in view of the fact that on my part the contracts were fulfilled?

Unfortunately, the answer appears to be no (under section 134 (1) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979), because you did not actually acquire any shares.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

## Matrimonial home

Just recently our house has been changed from a joint tenancy to "tenancy in common".

We have been divorced for a few years and I would be grateful if you could please advise me of my legal rights (as sitting tenant) should my ex-husband wish to sell the house, or his share of it.

If the house was purchased as a matrimonial home it is probable that your former husband will not be able to force a sale of the house against your will, at least so long as you have no alternative accommodation and

provided that it cannot be said that the house is too large for your needs so that it should be sold to enable a smaller house to be bought for you and to free some capital.

## Buying out beneficiaries

I have been left a share in the house in which I am living, and I wish to buy out the other beneficiaries who have no interest in residence. The house is in urgent need of extensive major repairs, which I would willingly undertake.

A year has elapsed, however, since the death of the testator, and the executors have failed to prove the will.

Am I correct in believing that both inflation and any input into the house, in increasing the value, will raise the cost to me? Or will eventual settlement be based on 1984 prices?

If the will is proved and the executors agree to sell to you the price will have to be determined on value as at the date of the sale. You should call on the named executors to prove or renounce probate, so that if necessary others can take out letters of administration with the will annexed.

## U.S. citizens and UK taxes

I am a U.S. citizen who has resided in the United Kingdom

for the past 12 years. I am married to a British subject, and we have two children. This past year, my mother died in the U.S., and left me an inheritance, paid to me without any U.S. taxes deducted. Some of this money, having earned interest during my mother's life (ie, deferred annuities), would be subject to U.S. income taxes. If I was a U.S. taxpayer, I am, however, a UK taxpayer, and have been for the past decade. I have had no other earnings in the United States. Should this money now be assessed retrospectively for U.S. income tax liability, or am I liable only to report this inheritance to the Inland Revenue. I get a different answer from everyone

# TYNDALL BANK

(ISLE OF MAN)

## STERLING MONEY ACCOUNT

pays you **13 3/4% pa**

= 14.47% COMPOUND ANNUAL RATE

**WITHOUT DEDUCTION OF TAX**

The ideal home for your money if you prefer your interest paid gross. As the Isle of Man is outside the U.K., interest on deposits in this account will not be taxed at source at U.K. composite rate. Investors may still, therefore, enjoy the benefit of interest paid gross.

**HIGH INTEREST**

The Sterling Money Account pays higher rates of interest because of the regular substantial presence of the Tyndall Group in the money market. Deposits are placed only in the UK with recognised banks and their wholly owned subsidiaries, selected Local Authorities and Building Societies. Rates reflect money market changes; individual depositors automatically earn a better rate of interest than normally available to them.

**CHEQUE BOOK TOO**

As well as these very high interest rates, investors have immediate access to their deposit at all times with a cheque book. The minimum cheque payment is £250—especially useful for paying those large bills, or transferring to your Current Bank.

\* Current rate. Rate published daily in the Financial Times. Account.

## INTEREST CREDITED 4 TIMES A YEAR

Interest is credited 4 times a year at the end of March, June, September and December. This can mean an even higher return, because the interest itself earns interest for you.

For example the current interest rate then equals 14.47%.

If you prefer, interest can be paid to you by cheque. Either way you get quarterly statements.

## NO CHARGES

There are no charges for deposits or withdrawals, including standing orders (minimum £100) however frequently you use these facilities.

## TAXATION

Under Manx Law, no tax is deducted at source from interest paid, and for non-residents of the Isle of Man no returns are made to any Government Authorities. UK depositors should, therefore, declare the gross interest received on their UK tax returns each year.

## ABOUT TYNDALL BANK, ISLE OF MAN

Deposits in the Sterling Money Account will be accepted in the Isle of Man, and are not covered by U.K. statutory deposit protection. Tyndall Bank (Isle of Man) Limited has paid-up share capital and reserves of some £1,650,000.

The latest audited accounts may be obtained from the address below. Tyndall Bank (Isle of Man) Limited is a subsidiary of Globe Investment Trust P.L.C., whose managed funds exceed £1,000 million. Tyndall Bank is licensed under the Isle of Man Banking Act, 1975. All banking in the Isle of Man is now regulated by the Manx Financial Supervision Commission.

For details and application form fill in the coupon and send it to: Tyndall Bank (Isle of Man) Limited, PO Box 62, 30 Athol Street, Douglas, Isle of Man or phone (0624) 29201.

# Has your Building Society got what it takes?

## YOU MAY GET -

- High Rates of Interest
- No notice of withdrawal
- Availability throughout the U.K.

## BUT CAN YOU ALSO GET? -

- A special cheque book for your account
- A Bank of Scotland Visa Card

## Bank of Scotland's Money Market Cheque Account makes your savings easily available while they're working for you.

This account is accessible through Bank of Scotland's Home Banking Service. Tick appropriate box in coupon for details.

### INTEREST RATE\*

**13.40% = 14.25%**

APPLIED RATE\* EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE\*

\*Interest rates quoted correct at time of going to press.

I/We wish to open a Money Market Cheque Account, I/and we are aged 18 or over. (Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

☐ Please send me a Visa Card application.

☐ Please send me the Home Banking information pack.

MY/OUR BANKERS ARE \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

For further information tick boxes or ask operator for Freshphone 8494.

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
A FRIEND FOR LIFE



## YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

## Watch the thin red line

Harold Baldwin on things to know about free banking

**FREE BANKING**, if you stay in credit, may soon be available at all the High Street banks. However, your idea of keeping out of the red may not be the same as your bank's. A statement showing entirely credit balances, even substantial ones, can still attract interest and service charges.

The reason for this discrepancy lies in the clearing system. When you pay in a cheque it is credited to your account on the same day, but your bank does not receive the funds for at least three days. The cheque has to be sent to the bank upon which it is drawn, which must then remit the funds to your bank (if the cheque is in order). Until then, your bank regards the cheque as uncleared.

This operation is carried out in bulk by the head offices of the banks through the Clearing House. At the end of the day a balance is struck between each bank and settlement is made on the following day, three days after your account was credited.

To cover this delay, banks programme their computers to show two daily balances on each account—the uncleared balance,

which is the one shown on your statement—and the cleared balance, which is the one on which they base their charges. Thus, if you withdraw funds before a cheque is cleared, and there are insufficient other funds on the account to cover it, you will be effectively overdrawn.

This has to happen only once to make you liable for charges on all the everyday services such as standing orders, direct debits and other withdrawals for the whole of the clearing period. Where you have to keep above a balance of, say, £100 in your account to avoid charges, then it is again your cleared balance which must not fall below this figure.

Banks all use slightly different dates for their quarterly charging periods (see table). If you have already started running up charges for the current period there is nothing you can do about it, although the banks allow notional interest on cleared credit balances and set this off against charges. Also, if the charge is less than £2 it is usually waived.

The cheque you paid in should arrive at the branch upon which it is drawn on the morning of the third day, so you cannot regard it as paid until the morning of the fourth day at the earliest. To be on the safe side, you should allow a full week.

Building societies have a different way of dealing with cheques paid in. They pay interest on the amount of the cheque from the day after it is received, but you cannot withdraw the money for 14 days, unless you make a specific request to which they feel able to agree. Their only access to the clearing system is through the banks, but that cannot excuse them from locking-in their customers' money for so long.

## WHAT THE BANKS CHARGE

	Minimum for free banking	Charges	Notional interest	Charge dates
BARCLAYS	£100 or £500	£3 flat charge average credit direct debits 15p others 25p if over 55 and retired	3%	March 4, June 3, Sept 2, Dec 1
LLOYDS	£100	cash point, direct debits 30p others 30p	3% below deposit rate	March 9, June 9, Sept 9, Dec 9
MIDLAND	Nil	autobanks, direct debits 12p others 31p	7%	First Friday in: March, June, Sept, Dec
NATWEST	£100 or £500 on deposit, Nil if over 55 and retired	£3 flat charge service tills direct debits 12p others 25p	3%	March 10, June 9, Sept 8, Dec 8

## George Graham on unit trusts A word of advice for monthly savers

**WAR BREAKS** out over unit trust monthly savings schemes well, not quite. After much sound and fury over plans to let unit trust groups pay much higher commission on these schemes, savers who want to invest small, regular sums in the stock markets still have a wide choice of unit trust plans that will not sting them heavy front-end charges.

With the abolition of tax relief on life insurance contracts last year, the unit trust schemes have become direct rivals of the Maximum Investment Plans (MIPs) sold by insurance companies.

But insurance company plans may pay commission of as much as 35 per cent to financial advisers and brokers. To help its members compete, the Unit Trust Association changed its rules to allow them to pay up to 20 per cent of the first year's contributions to a savings plan as commission to intermediaries.

This format has now been approved by the Department of Trade and Industry—on condition that all the charges involved must be disclosed, and that investors should be able to pull out of the plan at any time. But so far, only one unit trust group, GT, has shown any inclination to take advantage of the new commission structure.

The GT plan requires a minimum investment of £30 a month. But to pay the 20 per cent commission, the saver's first three monthly payments will not be invested.

As a sop, GT will give a bonus of 2 per cent more units for all payments made after the first year.

There is, of course, absolutely no point in going into this scheme. If you want to make regular investments in a GT unit trust, why not just put the money aside each month in a bank or building society, and then buy units when you have accumulated the £500 required for a normal lump sum investment?

Suppose you had decided at the beginning of 1984 to invest £50 a month in the GT UK Capital fund. Under the GT scheme you would not have started acquiring units until April; by the end of the year you would have 736 units standing in your name.

But if you put £50 a month aside in a building society, you could have bought 806 units on October 1. Once you had made the initial £500 investment you could then add smaller sums in November and December, bringing your total by the end of the year to 956 units.

GT says that its plan is aimed at less sophisticated investors to whom a savings scheme must actually be sold. It says that the plan is still much better value for these people than an insurance company's monthly plan, which would otherwise be the only product a broker would market to them. These pay even higher commission and impose stiff penalties on investors who want to withdraw early from their savings commitment.

Insurance-linked savings plans are still right for some people, even though they no longer carry tax relief. For higher rate taxpayers they may be worthwhile, because the final proceeds of a ten-year plan will be paid tax-free.

For most savers, however, the aim should be to get as much of your money invested as soon as possible. And the best way of ensuring this is to opt for a straight-forward unit trust regular savings plan which does not pay commission.

TSB offers such a scheme, with a minimum investment of £15 a month. It is available for all the group's unit trusts except Gilt and Fixed Interest, and once savers have built up £250 in one fund they can switch at will to another. They can also miss monthly payments when it suits them.

David Pook, TSB Unit Trusts' marketing development manager, says he could sell a lot more savings plans if he paid high commission to brokers. But he is already selling a good many, he says, and the cus-



tomers is getting a good deal. Brown Shipley goes one further. Not only does it not pay any commission to intermediaries, it also gives you an extra 3 per cent of units for your money right from the start of your savings plan.

The group points out that the scheme is particularly suitable for paying money by covenant to a child, who can then reclaim the tax you have paid. It includes a simple deed of covenant form in its brochure for the regular savings scheme.

Paul Talbot, managing director of Brown Shipley Fund Management, adds that if you are thinking of making a covenant to a child it might be as well to do so before the Budget, which could remove the tax concession.

Hargreaves Lansdown, Bristol, based unit trust advisers, says it found the Unit Trust Association's decision to allow commission of up to 20 per cent scandalous. On the other hand, commission at the normal 3 per cent rate is really not worthwhile for the broker.

It therefore offers to set up a regular savings scheme with any unit trust group the client chooses without taking any commission. But it will charge a flat fee of £25.

## CURRENT VALUE OF £20 MONTHLY INVESTMENT IN THE MEDIAN UNIT TRUST

	Five years	Ten years	Fifteen years
UK genl.	£2,069	£6,763	£13,321
Intnl.	£1,939	£6,180	£10,983
Eqty. Inc.	£2,071	£6,403	£13,382

## Challenge over bonuses

Eric Short reports on a break in an insurance ritual

**EVERY YEAR**, traditional life companies go through the ritual of deciding on the bonus allocations to be given to their with-profit policyholders—a procedure that has become enshrined in its own mystique.

Companies tend to stock to a rigid timetable in announcing bonus rates. Prudential Life of London and Scottish Equitable are always first, announcing their bonus rates before the year is over.

Most companies declare their rates during the first two weeks of the New Year, in virtually the same progression every year. The home service companies, such as the Prudential and the Pearl, wait until they reveal their profit figures for the previous year.

This leisurely procedure was satisfactory when competition between life companies was conducted in a gentlemanly fashion. But these days are now over.

The market for with-profits business is not expanding now that the unit-linked life concept has been accepted by all life companies. So competition is growing daily for what with-profit business there is available.

Intermediaries now place more emphasis on past performance in choosing a life company, so a good position in the performance tables is essential. The performance tables published by the Money Management magazine are now standard reference for most intermediaries.

Man aged 29 at outset paying £10 a month gross—maturity value on a with-profit life policy maturing in February 1985 compared with a similar contract maturing December 1984.

## TOP 10 PERFORMERS

Company	Feb. '85	Dec. '84	Rise %
10 YEARS			
Scottish Amicable	2,672	(2,311)	15.6
Standard Life	2,580	(2,329)	11.2
Norwich Union	2,563	(2,347)	9.2
Scottish Widows	2,534	(2,247)	11.3
Tunbridge Wells Equitable	2,433	(2,087)	16.6
Equitable Life	2,390	(2,258)	5.8
Friends Provident	2,352	(2,072)	9.2
Clerical Medical	2,347	(2,136)	9.9
Scottish Life	2,335	(2,227)	4.8
Scottish Mutual	2,298	(2,131)	7.8
25 YEARS			
Tunbridge Wells Equitable	14,484	(10,483)	38.0
Scottish Amicable	14,311	(12,699)	12.6
Standard Life	14,118	(12,686)	11.3
Norwich Union	13,606	(12,343)	11.1
Clerical Medical	13,576	(12,135)	11.9
Scottish Widows	12,680	(11,136)	13.6
Scottish Mutual	12,392	(11,031)	12.2
Friends Provident	12,366	(10,155)	21.8
Equity and Law	12,077	(11,557)	4.5
UKP	11,985	(11,500)	4.2

Thus, a company declaring its bonus rate late in the season has the advantage of knowing what his competitors have done and adjusting their rates accordingly. Standard Life has always been a late declarer and in recent years, Scottish Amicable has taken to waiting for everyone else.

This round of bonus declarations took a new twist when Mr Hugh Scurfield, head of Norwich Union's life operations, declared his bonus rates a fortnight earlier than usual ahead of the pack. It was a substantial increase and Mr Scurfield threw out of the challenge to other life companies to do better—that is one way of competition.

Standard Life waited until its usual time early in February and made its declaration which topped NU's performance. Scottish Amicable waited another couple of days and then made its declaration which topped the lot.

All these manoeuvres provided a severe test for Scottish Widows. It had followed the usual procedure of announcing its rates very early in January. It then watched other companies it never regarded as serious competitors top its payouts. This was too much for a company which in the past had been away the top few companies for performance. It revised its terminal bonus rates early in March to improve its position and backdated them to January 1 so that its new figures were included in the Money Management table.

While all this was going on a relative minnow—the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society—made its triennial declaration and topped the lot for 25 years—red faces in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Norwich. Now that the society has decided to make annual declarations more will be seen of it in the performance tables.

The top performers in the final analysis are shown in the table.

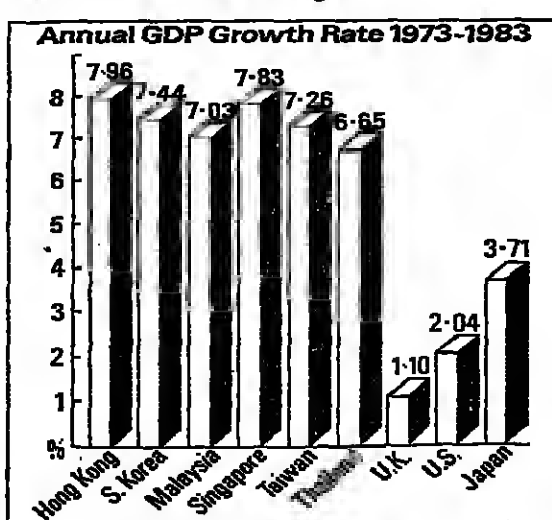
## A NEW TRUST AIMED AT CAPITAL GROWTH

## ABBHEY ASIAN PACIFIC TRUST

An Authorised UK Unit Trust

Abbey's new Trust offers an opportunity to invest in the fastest developing geographical area of the world—the Asian Pacific.

- The aim of the Trust is capital growth from a diversified, actively managed portfolio of shares in companies quoted on stockmarkets in the Asian Pacific region, excluding Japan.
- New investment opportunities are rapidly opening up there, and the emergence of the People's Republic of China as a major market is likely to ensure the region's continued rapid economic development.
- The countries in which the Trust will be invested have, over the past 10 years, consistently outperformed Japan, the US and the UK in economic growth.



Source: IMF International Financial Statistics plus Hong Kong and Taiwan Government Statistics.

- The recent agreement between China and Britain over Hong Kong confirms China's positive attitude towards the West and towards free enterprise.
- A stockbroker specialising in Far Eastern Investment has been appointed to advise on the Trust.

**The promise of the Asian Pacific**  
The region's economic growth, which to date has been achieved and sustained through the needs of the western world, has enabled each individual country to create strong domestic markets. Now, with the rapid development of China as a consumer economy and all its attendant requirements, the region is poised for further dramatic growth and is likely to become a major world economic force by the turn of the century.

**Portfolio Composition**  
The Asian Pacific region, as defined for the Trust, includes all the economies in South East Asia with the exception of Japan which, because of its size, merits



## The Asian Pacific economies are flying high

The Trust will focus mainly on investments in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, the main markets in the area, with smaller holdings in Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines. Limited exposure to India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka may also be introduced if suitable opportunities arise.

There will be between 35 and 50 holdings in the portfolio with around 40% of the value in 'core' holdings—financially sound companies with good management, prospects and track record. The shorter term 'non-core' holdings will be special situations (particularly companies undergoing a change of ownership or direction) and larger companies bought on a market trading view.

In view of the volatility of the various stockmarkets, a key element in the investment policy is a willingness to 'switch' actively between the markets which are individually 'high risk'.

Although the risk to the investor is reduced by the spread of holdings, the Trust is mainly suitable for investors wishing to augment a long-term growth portfolio.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

## Advised by major Far East specialists

London stockbrokers, Vickers & Costa Limited have been appointed investment advisers to the Trust. They are leading Far East specialists with offices throughout the region. Their detailed knowledge of the local stockmarkets

and their personal contact with the managers of candidate companies ideally qualifies them to advise on the Trust's investments.

## Fixed Price Offer of Units

Until the close of business on Friday, 29 March 1985\* units are offered at the fixed price of 50.0p and the estimated starting gross yield is 2.50%. Units, which will be of the Accumulation type only, can be bought or sold thereafter on any business day at prices ruling on receipt of instructions.

## Initial Launch bonus

Since this is a new unit trust, the initial issue price does not include any rounding adjustment. This feature represents an effective bonus to all initial subscribers since an adjustment of up to 1% will be introduced in subsequent valuations.

To invest now, simply return the coupon to us with your cheque, minimum £500, and share in the prosperous future of the Asian Pacific.

## General Information

You can buy or sell units on any business day. A written confirmation will be sent on receipt of your instructions, and a Unit Certificate issued within 6 weeks. Payments for re-purchased units are normally made within 10 days of receipt of your renounced Unit Certificate. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 0.75% (the Trust Deed permits maximum charges of 7% initial and 2% annual) will be made by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Trust is a Wider Range Investment. Offer not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

## Fixed Price Offer of 50.0p per unit until 29 March 1985

Application Form  
To: Abbey Unit Trust Managers Limited, 1-3 St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AA (Reg. Office). Telephone 07-226 1033.

We enclose a cheque for £ (minimum £500) payable to Abbey Unit Trust Managers Ltd, for investment in Accumulation Units of Abbey Asian Pacific Trust at 50.0p per unit (offer closes 29 March 1985 or earlier at the Manager's discretion).

I am/We are over 18 years of age.

Signature (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Address

Postcode

Date

Signature

Joint Applicants should sign and enclose details separately.

Abbey Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Registered in England No. 0726471.

A subsidiary of Abbey Life Group Ltd, A British Company of ITC.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

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To: Michael Hart, Foreign & Colonial Investment Group, (Incorporated in Scotland) 1 Leith Road, Edinburgh, Scotland. Tel: 07-423 4480. Please send me full details of the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign & Colonial

OF SCOTLAND



## BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

Share	Sub- n/a	Others	
Share	Sub- n/a	Others	
Abbey, National	7.50	8.50	3.75 Seven-day account 9.25 Higher interest acc. 90 day's notice or charge 6.25-8.75 Cheque-Save
Ald to Thrift	9.60	—	Easy withdrawal, no penalty
Alliance	7.50	8.50	7.75 7 days' notice, imm. wdl. If balance £2,500+ Int. pd. 1/4% p.a., mthly. inc. opt. if bal. £1,000+
Anglia	7.50	8.50	9.25 Bank save. Balance of £2,500. Current account 9.25 3-year bond. No notice, 3 months' penalty 9.25 Capital share. No notice, 1 month's penalty 7.75 7 days' notice. No interest penalty
Barnsley	7.50	9.25	9.50 2-year termshare—3 months' notice
Bradford and Bingley	7.50	8.50	9.15 Special investmt. share/monthly income share 9.00 Premium access. On demand, no pen. £1,000+
Bristol and West	7.50	8.50	9.25 High income. 3 months' notice or 90-day pen. 8.50 Plus a/c £1,000+. No notice. No penalty 9.45 £20,000+ 9.25 £5,000+ 8.95 £1,000+ 7-day notice Triple Bonus. Also Monthly Income
Britannia	7.50	8.50	8.90 7 days' notice, 9.15 28 days' notice
Cardiff	9.00	9.10	9.50 90 days' not. Penalty if balance under £10,000
Catholic	7.50	8.50	9.30 Extra share. Interest monthly. Maximum 9.75
Century (Edinburgh)	8.85	—	9.30 Permanent 2/3 years or variable
Chelsea	7.50	8.50	9.75 Immed. withdrawal. Int. pen. or 3 months' notice
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	8.50	9.00 No Not. No pen. Under £1,000, 7.50; Over £1,000, £5,000+ 9.35 when monthly int. added
Citizens Regency	7.75	9.00	9.15 7 days, 9.25 1 month, 9.50 3 months
City of London (The)	7.75	9.00	9.50 3 months' notice—no penalty—monthly income 9.20 21 days' not. Int. access for amts. over £10,000
Coventry	7.50	8.75	9.75 2-year bond £1,000+, close 90 days' notice and penalty, monthly inc. opt., guaranteed 2.25 diff. Money-maker inst. acc. no pen. 9.45 £20,000+, 8.20 £5,000+, 8.85 £1,000+ monthly inc. opt.
Derbyshire	7.50	8.75	9.50 2 y., 3 m. not. with pen. 8.75 no nt./pen. inc. 9.00 Gold star £10,000+. No notice. No penalties
Gateway	7.50	8.50	9.50 Monthly int. £5,000+ 9.35 If added to account 90-day a/c (7-day a/c 8.75-9.25 subject to bal.)
Greenwich	7.50	—	9.50 6 months, 9.60 3 months, £1,000 minimum
Guardian	7.75	—	8.75 7-day Xtra, 7 days' notice, no penalty
Halifax	7.50	8.50	9.00 28-day Xtra, 28 days' notice, no penalty 9.25 90-day Xtra, 90 days' notice, no penalty 9.75 90 days' not. No pen. No penalties
Heart of England	7.50	8.75	9.25 90-day account, minimum £500
Henel Hempstead	7.50	9.00	9.20 7-d. s/c, 9.80 Magnum a/c 6 wks. + loss of int.
Heaton	8.00	—	9.10 Spa mthly. income, no not., no pen. £5,000 min.
Lambeth	7.65	8.75	9.75 High flyer, no notice, no penalty, £10,000 min.
Leamington Spa	7.60	—	9.65 Supershare, no not., 14 d. notice, £2,000 min.
Leeds and Holbeck	7.50	9.25	9.00 Monthly interest, 9.25 28 days' notice or pen. either if £10,000 still in account
Leeds Permanent	7.50	8.50	9.75 Liquid gold. No not. no pen. (8.00 on bal. of £2,500+) HRAS 10th issue 9.25 3 months' not.
Leicester	7.50	8.50	8.85 £500+ im. wdl. no pen. 9.75 c.m. 1 yr. £2,000+
London Permanent	8.00	—	9.50 60 d. not. or imm. wdl. no pen. If bal. £7,500+
Midshires	7.50	—	9.50 60 d. not. or imm. wdl. no pen. If bal. £10,000+
Mornington	7.50	8.50	9.00 28 d. not. or imm. wdl. no pen. If bal. £10,000+
National Counties	7.50	8.50	9.50 90 days' notice, no penalty, £1,000+
National and Provincial	7.50	8.50	9.50 APEX (+2% std. 3 yrs.) im. wdl. 60 days' pn. 9.25 90 days' notice/pen. unless bal. stays £10,000+
Nationwide	7.50	8.50	9.00 28 d. not., 8.75 7 days' notice/penalty 9.25 Capital bonus, 3 yrs., 90 days' notice/penalty 9.25 Bonus 90, 90 days' notice/penalty
Newcastle	7.50	8.75	9.00 Super bonus, 28 days' notice/penalty 9.75 Bonus-7, 7 days' notice/penalty
Northern Rock	7.50	8.75	9.25 90 days' notice, 9.00 28 days' notice 9.50 7 days' notice. On demand with penalty 9.75 2-year term access with penalty
Norwich	7.50	8.75	9.50 Money-spinner plus £20,000 or more
Peckham	8.25	—	8. Money-spinner plus £5,000 or more
Peterborough	7.50	8.50	9.00 Money-spinner plus £500 or more
Portman	7.50	9.25	9.05 7-day share monthly income option 9.25 3 yrs. imm. wdl. if over £2,000. Monthly income
Portsmouth	7.65	9.15	9.50 Flexi-plus 60 days' notice monthly income
Property Owners	8.00	9.50	9.10 Flexi-plus. Minimum £500. No notice imm. wdl. 9.80 Prem. Min. £500. 3 months' notice. No penalty
Sarborough	7.50	8.75	9.80 3 years, 8.60 90 days, 9.35 30 days, 9.25 7 days 9.80 3 mths., 9.30 6 mths., 9.35 28 days, 9.25 im. ac.
Skipton	7.50	8.75	9.50 2-yr. limited share, 1.75 guaranteed differential 9.70 Sovereign £10,000+, 9.35 £500-£9,999. Monthly inc. 9.35, min. inv. £2,500. Inst. access no pen.
Stroud	7.50	8.75	9.30 3 m., 9.05 1 m., 9.05 £10,000+, no pen., no not.
Sussex County	7.50	9.00	9.80 7 days, 9.10 Sussex high, 9.40 90 days
Sussex Mutual	7.75	9.00	9.15 Over £5,000, imm. wdl. Under £5,000, 7 d. not.
Thrift	7.60	—	9.60 3-year term. Other accounts available
Town and Country	7.50	8.50	9.50 90 d. not. or pen. No not./pen. If bal. £10,000+
Wessex	9.25	—	9.00 7 d. not. or pen. No not./pen. If bal. £10,000+
Woolwich	7.50	—	— No notice—no penalties—minimum invest. £1 9.00 Prime—no notice, no penalty, minimum £500 9.00 Monthly increase shares, 28 days' notice 9.25 Capital, 90 days' notice/penalty
Yorkshire	7.50	8.50	9.25 Diamond key, 28 days' notice or 60 days' pen.

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

## YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

George Graham on hidden costs of changing homes  
When it's your move next

DO YOU know what you are letting yourself in for when you decide to buy a house? Moving home can be expensive, and you may find yourself with a lot of bills you had not budgeted for.

Buying a home for the first time can be particularly daunting. It is all very well being told to allow for the costs of paying a solicitor, but how much does a solicitor charge? Many solicitors are reluctant to give a firm price quotation in advance, saying it will depend on the work required to carry out the house purchase.

The Woolwich Building Society has produced a guide to the cost of moving home, based on a survey of 36 towns in Britain. It shows the probable costs of selling your old home, of moving your belongings and of buying a new house.

When selling your old home, the two main costs you face are legal fees and estate agent's fees. For a house worth £20,000 the solicitor's fee is likely to be £207. This would rise to £288 on a house selling for £35,000, to £353 for a house worth £45,000 and to £434 for one worth £60,000.

Estate agent's fees are likely to be between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent of the selling price

of the house. It could, therefore, cost well over £1,000 for a house worth £50,000.

But it is worth shopping around. You may be able to negotiate a lower rate, particularly if you place your house with only one agent.

Buying a house can be even more expensive than selling. You don't have to pay an estate agent, but your legal bill will be larger and you will also have to have the property surveyed.

The most commonly overlooked expense when buying a house is 1 per cent stamp duty, the Woolwich says. This applies to the whole of the purchase price if the house costs a penny over £30,000. "Buyers should be careful not to pay a price which brings them just over the threshold," the society says.

But don't forget that an allowance for things like carpets can be used to bring the price reasonable to assume that if a of the house down for the purpose. "It would not be unreasonable to assume that if a purchase price of £30,000 includes fitted carpets through out the property, stamp duty may be avoided altogether."

Solicitors' fees can vary widely, and the final bill from your lawyer will include a

number of items beside the charge for his own work. There could be land registry and search fees, for instance.

As there has been no fixed scale of solicitors' fees since 1972, it is always advisable to ask for an estimate of the final cost, the Woolwich says. The Law Society, the solicitors' governing body, has advised its members to give written estimates of charges in advance.

But the fee will still depend on the amount of work involved, so a house purchase with unforeseen complications may end up costing more than the original estimate. However, some solicitors say they will still try to stick to their estimate. This is good customer relations, and may encourage you to use the same firm in future.

The structural survey of your new house can be cheaper if the same surveyor also carries out the valuation for the building society or bank which is providing your mortgage. The Woolwich also shows the your furniture from one house to another. It assumes that you approximate cost of moving have the average amount of belongings, with no particularly difficult items, and that you are moving about 20 miles.

House for sale... now the problems begin  
THE COST OF SELLING A HOUSE

	£	£	£	£
Value of house	20,000	35,000	45,000	60,000
Solicitor's fee	207	288	353	434
Estate agent's fee	442	743	942	1,233
Total	649	1,031	1,295	1,667
Removals	115	150	185	220

Source: Woolwich Building Society

## THE COST OF BUYING A HOUSE

	£	£	£
Value of house	35,000	45,000	60,000
Solicitor's bill	315	380	487
Fee for mortgage	83	86	87
Land registry fee	88	113	145
Searches	14	14	14
Stamp duty	250	450	600
Structural survey	187	214	232
Valuation fee	69	75	81
Total	1,109	1,322	1,566

Source: Woolwich Building Society

## Dina Thomson on rights to buy a freehold

## Leaseholders, don't despair

YOU HAVE fallen in love with a house and would buy it except that it is a leasehold property with a short lease. Do not despair: under the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 (as amended), you may have the right either to buy the freehold or extend the lease for another 90 years.

You could be one of the several hundred thousand people the Department of Environment estimates as qualifying for that right. At last count, in 1967, more than a million people fulfilled the conditions that gave them the right to buy their freehold.

But it must be a house, as the legislation does not apply to flats. Your lease must be of the entire house, even though it may be divided into separate flats, and it must originally have been granted for more than 21 years. Also, you must have been occupying the house as your principal residence for at least three years.

This occupation requirement

means you could buy a leasehold house on a short lease with the intention of buying the freehold, making it easier to get building society finance.

Your original lease also must be at a low rent. The rule is that your present annual ground rent must be less than two-thirds of the rateable value of your house, as assessed either on March 23 1965, or on the first date of a lease that begins after that date.

You could be ruled out if your house is too expensive. The formula for determining this is related to what was fixed as the rateable value of your purchase in either 1965 or 1973, or when your house first entered the valuation list if that was at a later date. These limits depend on such factors as the location of the property.

Find out about these things from the rating authority at your local town hall. Bear in mind that the rateable value can be reduced for the purpose of the Act if you or any previous tenants have been responsible for improvements to the house.

A change in rateable value could affect whether the house comes within the Act, and the basis on which the price of the freehold is assessed.

If you discover you qualify under the Act, you can either choose "amalgamation"—buying the freehold or claiming an extension of 90 years on your lease. If you do neither you would become a statutory tenant under the Rent Act when your lease expires, and be liable to pay a rent assessed by the Rent Officer—which could be quite a bit higher than your original payments.

If you decide to claim a lease extension, you can do it only for a period of 50 years exactly. At the end of this, the house will revert automatically to the landlord, leaving you and your family with no right to stay in it even as Rent Act tenants.

Once the extension period has begun, you will have to pay a modern ground rent which is likely to be considerably more than the original. The new rent

will not be assessed until the year before the original lease was due to expire. (You could, however, get an estimate from a local valuer.)

You will have to decide about buying the freehold before the date on which the original lease ends as you lose your right to do this once the extension begins.

All other terms of your lease should continue during a 50-year extension, and your tenure should be as secure as it was under the original lease — as long as the freeholder does not show during that time that he needs the house for redevelopment.

The DOE notes that, generally speaking, houses with extended leases are harder to sell than freehold houses or those with an unexpired lease of more than 50 years. If you are retired, and you do not wish to sell or leave an extended lease in a will, it might still make sense for you to become a tenant.

Alternatively, an extended lease could be a means of staying on at your home for up to another 50 years without having to come up with the money to buy the freehold. It should not cost you more than £100 to extend your lease — but the exact cost depends on whether you use solicitors in central London and the bill is based on the time involved.

If, on the other hand, you decide to buy the freehold, the Act will give you important benefits as a purchaser. (It has, for this reason, been opposed by private landlords.)

Except in the case of Crown properties, the landlord generally cannot prevent you from buying the freehold or extending the lease.

If the landlord acquired the house before February 18 1966, he might be able to argue that it would cause him more hardship to leave than it would if the leaseholder was denied possession. But, even then, the landlord would have to pay the leaseholder compensation equivalent to the value of a 50-year



extension.

There are other cases when the landlord could have a right to obtain possession, but compensation is payable in these instances as well.

The actual price of a freehold will be open to negotiation with your landlord, but the Act sets out a basis for determining it. A rateable value of not more than £500 (£1,000 in Greater London) means the price will reflect the value of the land but not the building standing on it. There is a set formula to work this out, involving the ground rent and any site redevelopment value.

But if the rateable value of a house is between £500 and £750 (between £1,500 and £1,700 in Greater London), a different valuation procedure applies and the price to buy your freehold is likely to be higher. It includes the value of rent arising under a Rent Act tenancy that would succeed the end of the lease.

In both cases, the shorter the period remaining on the original lease, the higher the price will be.

If you and your landlord cannot agree on a price, you can go to your local Leasehold Valuation Tribunal—an independent body—to fix one. You are not liable to pay the other side's costs if they win unless you appeal and lose again. But you are liable to pay the fees of your solicitor and the valuer for conveying the freehold or granting the extended lease.

Should all this detail deter you, bear in mind that although the landlord can succeed in making things difficult for you to buy the freehold by using

stalling tactics, in the end the law is very much on your side.

Although you pay a premium for a short lease in the first place, by buying the freehold you would have paid an artificially low price for your house as it is not based on current market value. The smarter the area, the more true this is likely to be.

Private landlords are bitterly critical of the Leasehold Reform Act. They say it enables leaseholders to buy property at a fraction of its marketable value, leaving the freeholder with little or no recourse in law. The Grosvenor Estates, London's largest private landlord, still has a case pending which is expected to go to the Human Rights Court at Strasbourg for a ruling later this year.

In it case to the commission, Grosvenor cited 80 instances of properties affected by the Leasehold Reform Act which had been obliged to sell. They ranged from one valued at £110,000 and sold for £53,750.

If you decide to buy your freehold, bear in mind that there is nothing to stop you from selling it again immediately—and any profits you make will be exempt from Capital Gains Tax.

Also, once you have served notice to buy the freehold, you can effectively sell your property freehold although it has never been freehold in your hands. You can pass your rights in the property on immediately, and make a greater profit without ever actually paying for the freehold yourself.

Leasehold Reform—a booklet—is available from the Department of Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1. NEXT WEEK: how to buy your freehold or extend your lease.

## TOMORROW'S WORLD



## TODAY'S MOST EXCITING INVESTMENT

From communications satellites to programmable washing machines, from word processors to industrial robots, new technology is having a profound impact on the way we live and work.

At Save & Prosper we spotted the exciting investment potential of high technology companies at an early stage. And in June 1981 we launched our New Technology Fund to provide investors with an international spread of holdings in technology companies likely to achieve rapid growth.

In under four years this Fund has established itself as one of the top performing funds of its kind, the unit offer price increasing by 139.4% to 26th February 1985.

Today we believe there is great scope for growth from new technology companies.

## Excellent prospects worldwide

The bulk of the portfolio is invested in those countries in the forefront of technological advance—currently USA (40%), Japan (35%) and the UK (20%). To maximise long-term potential, we switch actively between the major markets.

Within the USA our main focus is now on smaller companies capable of producing above-average profits growth. From these we select those most likely to outperform the market on Wall Street.

In Japan huge research and development programmes have resulted in world leadership in spheres such as super fast computers, biotechnology and laser optical discs. For this reason our current holdings are mainly in companies with an almost unchallenged dominance, companies likely to prove highly profitable in the years ahead.

Our approach to UK companies is different again. Here emphasis has been on larger blue chip companies with all the resources required to exploit advances in electronics, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

Overall we believe this international spread provides a sound basis for capital growth.

## Invest today

Simply complete and return the coupon, together with your cheque (minimum £250) or tick the box for details of regular saving from £20 a month. New Technology Fund goes all out for capital growth and currently has a nil yield. On 26th February 1985 the offer price of units was 119.7p.

Remember that the price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY FUND

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Fund objective To provide long-term capital growth through investment in the shares of companies operating in the field of new technology. Dealing in units Units may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Manager, payment is normally made within 7 days of their receiving redemption certificates.

Net income distribution (if any) 15th February each year. Charges Initial charge 5% plus trailing commission not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25p per unit. Redemption (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual charge currently 1% of the Fund plus VAT. This charge is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses, including Trustees' fees.

Investment powers The Managers have executed a supplemental trust deed enabling them to purchase and write traded options, subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Safekeeping The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a "wide-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Trustees: Bank of Scotland, Manorsave & Prosper Securities Limited, 4 Great St Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Tel: 0708-66966. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To Save & Prosper Securities Limited, FREEPOST, Romford EM1 1BR. Telephone: 0708-66966.

I wish to invest £ (minimum £250 initially, £100 subsequently) in Save & Prosper New Technology Fund at the offer price prevailing on the day of receipt of my application.

I enclose a cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 1 am over 18. I understand the distribution of income to be reinvested in further units. \*Delete if not applicable.

Please send me details about regular saving in New Technology Fund. ☐

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname Mr/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Existing Account No. (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

AGENT'S STAMP \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

R.R. \_\_\_\_\_

C.O. No. \_\_\_\_\_

033 \_\_\_\_\_

The offer price is the offer price of the Fund as at the date of the offer.

Fig. as at 26th Feb 1985. Reg. No. 100810. Tel: 0708-66966. 570 6777

SAVE & PROSPER

The Merchants Trust PLC  
Highlights of the year

(unaudited results for the year ended 31st January 1985)

Net earnings per ordinary share 3.04p +25.1%  
Dividend per ordinary share 3.00p +24.0%  
Net asset value per ordinary share 121.7p +13.1%

## Dividend Forecast

Last August it was announced that The Merchants Trust would switch emphasis to income growth. In line with this policy your Board will recommend total dividends for the current year of not less than 3.75p per ordinary share (an increase on the 3.50p forecast in August).

## Investment Objective

The company's investment policy is to provide an above average level of income together with long term growth of capital. A substantial increase in the dividend has been forecast for 1985/6 and further above average growth of income is planned for the following years. The intention is to maintain a diversified worldwide portfolio in which recovery situations and the use of gearing will be given special emphasis to achieve the primary objective of income growth.

## MANAGERS

## KLEINWORT BENSON

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT







# MONEY

Of the experts who offer advice, one stands apart



Money. You worked hard for it. Of course it should work hard for you.

A lot of people have good ideas about how to do that. But when it comes to sheer breadth of knowledge, they can't touch your local newsagent.

Because your local newsagent has at your disposal Britain's most experienced and most reliable source of information and advice for the private saver and investor. Investors Chronicle.

It gives a weekly focus on personal finance in its Money Monitor pages plus the essential news, analysis, comment and statistics on companies and markets around the world.

And for new investors, there's something extra. Our newly launched "Beginners' Guide" series tells you step by step everything you need to know about investing and saving.

Investors Chronicle. The trusted counsellor. Available every Friday. At your local newsagent.

Your newsagent  
A financial mastermind

**INVESTORS  
CHRONICLE**

*Right on the money.*

## APPOINTMENTS

### Head of the Royal Mail

THE POST OFFICE has made the following senior appointments: Mr Alan Brown becomes director of letter operations, heading the national Royal Mail network which handles 42m letters a day. He was previously director London postal region. Mr Colta Childes, chairman of the north-western postal board, becomes director London Postal region. He is succeeded in the north-west by Mr Peter Howarth, the current head postmaster, Manchester. Mr Cedric Briscoe has been appointed designate director organisation and management development. He has been director of the south-eastern postal region since May 1982. Mr Briscoe's post is a restructuring of two current departments — organisation development and management resource. New director of the south-east postal region is Mr Peter Miloe, the present national director of mails operations.

The PELL FRISCHMANN GROUP has appointed two directors to its offshore board. They are Mr Nicholas W. Nash, who was previously with Aquatic of Scotland and McDermott Engineering, and Mr Alan K. Turner, formerly a director of British Shipbuilders' offshore division. He was previously with Vickers Offshore and Faraday (Barrow). Mr Tim A. Kieft has joined Pell Frischmann from Conoco (UK) to head a new division specialising in field development study for offshore oil and gas projects.

SEASCOPE INSURANCE HOLDINGS has appointed Mr R. K. Haddon as finance director.

Mr Terry Ulrick, formerly deputy group sales director, BPCC, is appointed group marketing services director responsible for advertising, promotions, exhibitions and marketing services.

Mr Andy Cowie has been appointed sales director of NORTON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, main operating company of Norton Telecommunications Group. Mr Martin Cawood, the previous sales director, has become group sales director.

ARGVILL GROUP has appointed Mr W. B. Marnock director of group personnel with responsibility for personnel and management development policies in all group companies. He is appointed to the boards of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products.

Mr Nicholas Bingham has been named vice-president, European operations, responsible for the company's television related activities at COLUMBIA PICTURES INTERNATIONAL. He will oversee all of the company's activities as they relate to European broadcast television distribution as well as Columbia's cable and satellite television interests. Mr Bingham joins Columbia from Thorn EMI where he has been director of cable programmes. He will be based in London.

SRI INTERNATIONAL has appointed Mr Simon Evans to head its newly-formed financial information systems consulting team in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

ORCHARD FOOD HOLDINGS, Chelmsford, has appointed Mr Roger Lutton to the board as distribution director. He was distribution director at Condon Blue, the Argill Group's freezer centre operation.

DELOITTE HASKINS & SELLS has appointed Mr Andrew Warren as partner in charge of Deloitte Haskins & Sells Management Consultants. He will continue as partner, computer services division.

DIXONS GROUP has appointed Mr Eddy Styling as managing director of Dixons Limited. Mr Ian Board, as managing director of Dixons Colour Laboratories, and Mr Nick Lightowler as purchasing director of Currys.

Mr A. M. W. Battisill has been appointed deputy chairman of the board of INLAND REVENUE from June 1, in succession to Mr J. M. Green who is retiring. Mr B. Pollard has been appointed director general (technical) from June 1 in succession to Mr D. B. Rogers who becomes director general (management) in succession to Mr H. Gracey who is retiring. Mr Pollard has been director of the counter avoidance and evasion division since 1981.

The Association of Supervisory and Executive Engineers (ASSEE) has appointed Mr David William Milton Latimer, as its chief executive. He also becomes company secretary of ASSEE Exhibitions and its subsidiary companies. Mr Latimer was a director of Derwent Electrical Services.

Mr Hiroshi Tomaya has been appointed managing director of MITA UK, British operation of Japanese copier company Mita Industrial Company. He has spent the last ten years at MITA's European headquarters in Amsterdam.

Sir John Nott has been appointed a director of ROYAL INSURANCE. He is chairman of Lazard Brothers and Co.

BUNZL has made a number of appointments following the formation of Bunzl Merchants Group which will manage, the pulp and paper world-wide merchandising division. Mr F. J. David is chairman of the new company.

Mr D. H. Eggle is managing director and Mr R. A. Bell, Mr J. A. Hill and Mr A. D. Phillips have been appointed directors. Mr C. J. Brooks and Mr W. R. Elchler have been appointed directors of Bunzl Pulp and Paper (Sales), and Mr A. A. Preston has been appointed managing director of a new company, Intercontinental Cellulose Sales (UK), with Mr G. D. Edwards, Mr A. J. Bishenden and Mr R. A. Bell as directors.

Mr Roy Watts has been appointed regional director and general manager at the Devon and Cornwall regional head office of LLOYDS BANK. He succeeds Mr Alan Goodman, who has retired.

Mr Andrew Marchant is joining the venture capital partnership at SCHROEDER. The partnership will act as advisers to the Schroder UK Venture Fund. He was general manager of Citicorp Venture Capital.

Mr Simon Newington-Bridges has been appointed managing director of AEROSPACE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. Redditch, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Automated Security (Holdings). He comes from his own electronics manufacturing company in Scotland.

Mr Alan Flockhart has been appointed financial director of THE WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY BREWERIES. He succeeds Mr Bob Houle, who is retiring at the end of April.

Mr John H. Sargent, previously general manager of Boskalis Westminster, has been appointed business development manager with COSTAIN GROUP. Mr Sargent has considerable involvement in the promotion of the Channel Tunnel fixed link in which Costain has a direct interest through its membership of the Channel Tunnel Group (CTG). CTG is currently promoting a bored twin rail tunnel with vehicle shuttle facilities.

Mr Alan Stote, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council, has joined the NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. He is chief executive of the BTS group.

LOVELL CONSTRUCTION (SOUTHERN), Guildford, has appointed Mr Ron Bates a director with responsibility for construction. He joined the group 14 years ago.

Mr Con Jenkins has decided to resign as managing director of WARD BLENKINSOP. Mr Peter Norton has joined the board as managing director and Mr Don Wiltshire as personnel director. They hold the same positions in Ward Blenkinsop's sister com-

pany, Synthetic Chemicals. Both companies are members of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

Mr John R. Lamb has been appointed director of operations of KODE INTERNATIONAL's new information technology division.

Mr John T. Gorman has been appointed deputy general manager of BANCO DI SICILIA, London branch.

The CARAVAN CLUB has appointed as its new director general Brigadier John Chapman who is retiring as chief of staff in the Army's logistic head quarter. He succeeds Mr David Chidson who retires in May.

Mr Kenneth Ernest Hawkins has been appointed secretary of the ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY. He was assistant secretary, a post in which he is succeeded by Mr Colin Robert Nagent.

Mr Peter Darvall, group property adviser since 1973, is to become DUNLOP's group property consultant following his retirement, with special emphasis on operational properties, both in the UK and overseas.

Mr Arthur Wheeler has been appointed commercial manager for the ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS South Wales group. He succeeds Mr David George who was recently appointed ABP's company secretary in London. Mr Wheeler will have overall responsibility for the commercial development of the ports of Cardiff, Barry, Newport, Swansea and Port Talbot.

Mr Robert A. Harrison has been elected to the board of JACKSON EXPLORATION, INC. He is executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

Mr Olof I. Lundberg has been reappointed, for a second six-year term, as director general of the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), which is based in London. Inmarsat, which has 43 member countries, provides satellite communication services to the world's shipping and offshore industries.

Dr J. D. Dence will be joining the partnership of MULLEN & CO., stockbrokers, from April 8.

SUCDEN (UK), formerly Comin (Community & Finance), Company, has appointed Mr Serge Varsano as chairman and Mr Jean-Jacques Alphandery as a director. Mr Roy Holland (deputy chairman), Sir Basil Englehorn, Mr A. J. S. Harding and Mr D. E. C. Ward have all retired from the board. Comin Holdings, a recently formed company, owned by Cofisac SA, has appointed Mr Derek Whiting as chairman, and Mr Max Benhamou, Mr John Botterill, Mr Elie Coriat and Mr Claude Semach as directors.

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# How Whitehall decides whether local councils are on target.



Every year Whitehall sets spending targets for local authorities throughout the country.

This year, under the new ratecapping laws, these targets have become absolute spending limits for those authorities on the so-called "government hit-list"

So it is more important than ever to understand how Whitehall sets its targets in the first place.

According to the 1984 Audit Commission Report (a government document) they are based on information that is inadequate and out of date.

Which is bad enough. But matters are made worse by the fact that Whitehall sets more than one target for each authority.

There's one based on its assessment of general needs throughout the country. And another based on precedents of needs and spending in each area.

The difference between the two is often quite staggering. For example, an authority which actually underspent one target by 4 per cent were judged to be 82 per cent overspenders

against the other target. Whitehall also has the power to put its own value on particular local needs, or to increase or decrease money allowed for exceptional cases.

So it can and does treat prosperous and poor communities differently. But not quite in the way you might expect.

For example, the biggest overspender in the country (according to government figures) is the extremely affluent City of London. Yet the City of London will not be ratecapped.

The most deprived borough in the country (again according to a government assessment) will be ratecapped.

Even though its spending plans are decidedly modest by comparison, and its needs enormous.

So Whitehall not only makes the rules, it applies them in arbitrary, inefficient and unjust ways.

And as nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant, the traditional democratic means of ensuring fair play no longer apply.

## Ratecapping makes no sense.



Britain's 2,000-plus independent schools are competing in a diminishing market and struggling to contain costs as fees rise faster than inflation.

Michael Dixon, Education Correspondent, assesses the outlook.

## Spotlight on management

SHALL we soon see the day when parents seeking an independent school for their son or daughter walk into some impressive educational edifice and ask to see, not the head, but the managing director?

Most, if not all, of Britain's 2,000-plus independent schools would devoutly hope not. "Education must always take pride of place over business considerations, and education must be the overriding concern of the person in charge of the school," says Mr Bruce McGowan, head of Haberdashers' Aske's and chairman of the Head Masters' Conference representing some 200 leading independent schools, catering mainly for boys.

Nevertheless, how to improve school management so as to offer "value for money" is now a pressing question in the fee-charging sector of education. It seems almost certain to become still more pressing over the next few years.

While the sector has come through inflation as well as the hostility of Labour Govern-

ments in the 1960s and 1970s more chronically than it would

probably have hoped, the times ahead are uncertain to say the least.

The hazards were nullified late last year in a report by the Deloitte Haskins and Scott management consultancy. It calculated that private schools' fees had been increasing over the previous five years at an average annual rate of 15.5 per cent. That not only compared badly with the corresponding 0 per cent rate of inflation, the consultancy said, but also coincided with a decline in Britain's total school-age population.

Despite many private schools' success in enrolling more pupils from overseas, British children remain their predominant clientele and so they are competing for a diminishing market. The decline in the English pupil population will continue until 1991 when it will bottom out at around 7.2m. Thereafter it is expected to start increasing again to reach 7.5m in 1996, but even then will

be well short of the 8.2m of 1983.

Far from being able to afford fee rises that might reduce custom from British families, the consultancy believes, the independent sector must seek to maintain its present number of pupils unless it increases its share of the total British school-age population from about 6.2 to around 7 per cent by 1993.

To make prospects still more hazardous, the report added, several areas which only a short time before had been widely regarded as growth markets for the sector had proved disappointing.

One was sixth-form studies for pupils aged 16 upwards headed for the Advanced-level examinations with a view to qualifying for university. The independent had been expected by numerous forecasters to win increased enrolments of older students at the expense of the state schools. But, perhaps because the number of families able to afford fees without a dire struggle has been falling recently, the trend at sixth-form level has been, if anything, the other way round.

ment all round. The report suggested several points for urgent consideration, including: 1. Educational standards need to be kept under searching review and upgraded wherever possible.

2. Operating costs should be brought under continuous and systematic control, based on a clearly identified structure of managerial responsibility within the school.

3. Services to prospective parents should be extended so as to include aids such as counselling on their best ways of lightening the burden of fees.

4. Market research also needs to be extended to include the recording of the origins of inquiries from parents and the aspects of education in which they are most interested, and the identification of differences between "prospective customers" who do send their child to the school and those who do not.

5. Public relations should be given constant attention, especially efforts to co-operate with state schools and promote public awareness of the private sector's contribution to the wider society.

### Search for growth

Another hope—the entry of girls to independent schools which had previously admitted only boys—is also failing to show the sustained growth initially expected. Intakes from overseas, although no doubt buoyed up by the weakness of sterling, can hardly be guaranteed to outweigh the sector's overall need for an increased share of the British market for schooling.

Since 1979 the sector has had the benefit of support from the Conservative Government, including the £23m a year provided through its Assisted Places Scheme to subsidise the fees of academically able children from less well-off homes whose parents wish them to attend independent schools. But private education cannot realistically hope for any significant increase in public funding from a government standing firm behind the local education authorities' offer of only a 4 per cent pay rise to state schools' teachers, despite strikes and other disruptive action by the biggest unions.

Consequently the management consultancy argued that to safeguard their future the independents had no choice but to improve their own manage-

The report's warning and checklist for action have not been given a unanimous welcome by the independents. Some, noting that the management consultancy has a vested interest in selling its services to the private sector of education, have accused it of "sacred-mongering". But the majority view among the sector's leading representatives seems to be that school management both can and should be sharpened.

While Mr McGowan would be implacably opposed to changing his title to managing director of Haberdashers' Aske's, he is convinced that "the head-teacher must seek to acquire the attributes of a good chief executive."

Parents wanting their children to go to independent schools are primarily interested in quality of education. But they are also concerned more and more about value for money, to ensure that the benefit to the child is worth the cost to the family.

"They won't have sympathy with slack in the system. Nor should they have. We have no concept of expecting parents to subsidise our inefficiency."

Accordingly, although the Head Masters' Conference represents schools whose



Independent schools are faced with a declining market as the UK school-age population shrinks. Above, Little Dean's Yard at Westminster School.

academic results make them on the whole the most marketable schools in the country, the conference is increasing its efforts to provide management training for heads and senior teachers. Nor is the need to improve business-type skills recognised only by establishments catering mainly for boys.

Mrs Anne Mustoe, current president of the Girls' School Association which also represents about 200 independent "couldn't agree more that managerial as well as educational professionalism is more and more crucial" to maintaining a successful school.

### Central

"Take financial management for example, I feel sure that we're all fast realising how central that is. Although my school is not particularly big, our turnover is now nearly £2m and making full use of it is very important," says Mrs Mustoe who heads the St Felix School in Suffolk.

"But I think the aspect of management which may be of even faster increasing importance is marketing. We must learn how to look out for and identify what our best markets are, and then go for them. To me, market research seems essential."

"I particularly appreciated

the consultancy's suggestion about examining the reasons why some parents who inquire decide in favour of a school and why others decide against."

The emphasis of the leading representatives of the private sector has been to concentrate heavily on academic studies for children with high aptitude.

"From now on, however, I suspect that the independent sector at large may do better to become more widely flexible so as to cater successfully for the need of the many different kinds of children whose talents and interests lie in other than academic directions," Mrs Mustoe says.

"Moreover, although it has been rather a point of professional pride to offer all stages of education from preparatory to sixth-form, I feel that more schools will be deciding to concentrate their resources on a narrower target. The aim of being one of the good schools of a general kind looks likely to give ground to the aim of being the best school of your particular kind."

"While it would make for a considerably more specialised sector than the one we've become so used to, it might well be the shape which gives us collectively the best prospects of going on to further success in the future."

## Newcomers need new skills

AN OLD Punch cartoon showed a harassed petrol-pump attendant refuelling a gigantic car whose engine was still running. "Switch off a moult," he was yelling to the opulent driver, "you're gaining on me."

A look at the numbers of independent schools which have been started and shut in England over the past decade, suggests that the private-school sector might feel like shouting the same message to Mrs Thatcher.

Allowing a few months for each incoming government's actions to take effect, the 10 years 1975-84 might be seen as neatly divided into halves—the later one under the Conservatives, the earlier under Labour. During Mrs Thatcher's five years, 275 private schools closed and 243 opened. The number closing over Labour's five years was 212 and the number newly arriving on the fully independent market was 339.

Admittedly 130 of them were previously semi-independent schools of the direct-grant kind which turned completely to fee-

charging with the abolition of the semi-independent sector from 1976. The outcome carved former Education Secretary Mr Fred Mulley's name in history for presiding over the creation of more private schools at one go than anyone since Edward VI.

Even discounting those 130 leaves the Labour period with an excess of closures over openings of only 7 per cent. The corresponding excess during the present Government's years was 13 per cent.

Where closures are concerned, the reason for the higher number recently may lie largely outside actions taken by government. Part of the reason, for example, may be the accelerating decline since 1980 in the British school-age population which is the independent sector's main market.

But of the openings, a good many would still seem to be arising from the Labour Government's outlawing of publicly maintained grammar schools in the cause of making state secondary schooling comprehensive only.

An instance is Leicester

Grammar School started in 1981 under a charitable trust set up by local citizens. "Although Leicestershire county was one of the pioneers of comprehensive schools, the city of Leicester didn't follow suit until about 1976," says Mr John Higginbotham, the head.

The comprehensives were set up in neighbourhoods around the city leaving empty the schools in the centre. We took one of them over, admitting boys and girls from 10 to 15. We began with 80 pupils and six staff. Now we have 400 children and 32 teachers.

"The fee is £510 a term and we are almost three times over subscribed. We're keenly aware of the fact that we're the first two years, for example, the vast majority take 10 Ordinary levels, and our pass rate is now over 90 per cent."

But new independents cannot rely completely for their future on parental nostalgia for the old-style grammar school curriculum, according to Dr Michael Barron, head of Longridge Towers near Berwick-upon-Tweed. Taking girls and

boys from four to 16, split 75/25 between day-pupils and boarders—it was opened in autumn 1983 in the buildings of a former girls' convent. From 113 children and 15 staff it has grown to 175 and 21. Fee ranges are £350-£550 a term for day pupils, and £530-£1,075 for boarders.

"Certainly parents who inquire are seeking grammars-style discipline as well as scholarship," Dr Barron says. "But if you listen carefully you find they also want a wider education. Their reason for asking about academic standards is often not to find out whether they are low or high, but to ensure that their child won't be on a limb at either level."

"My feeling is that independent schools in general are going to have to be less snobby about academic training and start developing children in other ways too. Besides that, I don't think any can survive for much longer unless they get up to date technologically. In a good 80 per cent of cases, one of the first things parents ask about is our computer facilities."

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Classes are small enabling the school to cater for each individual's academic and social needs and to encourage her special talents. Drama, ballet, music, art, hockey and needlework are included in the curriculum to complement academic subjects. A new home economics block and a computer science laboratory have recently been completed. Sports facilities are good, including hard tennis courts and a heated swimming pool.

The school stands in 26 acres of beautiful grounds a mile from the centre of Haslemere, which is on the main London-Portsmouth line. We are within easy reach of Heathrow and Gatwick and transport to and from the airports is arranged for girls travelling abroad.

The main house provides all the usual accommodation to a high standard with a new and improved heating system. The VI Form live in a separate self-contained house.

Further details from the School Secretary  
HASLEMERE 104281/3648

### ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL

HASLEMERE, SURREY GU27 1HQ

Headmistress: Miss O. M. Otter, BA (Hons) AKC

Boarders 150 Day girls 150

This girls' Public School stands in beautiful grounds within the Surrey Green Belt area. Close to Haslemere British Rail Station, with an excellent train service, access to the South Coast of London and its airports is fast and simple.

The Royal Naval School is open to all who achieve a suitable standard in the Common Entrance examinations. Its pupils are prepared for a wide range of "O" and "A" level examinations, as well as for University entrance. The School is divided into groups of approximately 40 girls, each group under the care of a Housemistress. The Housemistress has the usual duties of a headmistress, but also acts as a mentor to her pupils, providing a personal and caring atmosphere in which each girl can flourish.

Optional subjects include dancing, drawing, judo, riding, speech and drama; extra coaching is also available, including English language, sports and other extra-curricular activities are encouraged and the School takes part in the extra-mural activities of the local area.

Of the Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Social rates are charged for children with Royal Naval or Royal Marine connections and reduced rates are allowed, as far as possible, in cases of need. Bursaries and Scholarships are also available.

A prospectus and Application Form may be obtained from the Secretary to the Headmistress.

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The same will be held at Ardingly on Saturday, 11th May 1985, closing date for entries 11th May 1985. The Junior, which is the preparatory school for Ardingly College, will be accepting girls from March 1986 onwards. Full details, prospectus and application forms from the Secretary to the School, Ardingly College, Ardingly, Sussex BN8 4JG.

### St. Mary's Gate, Bournemouth

(Founded 1888)

Independent Boarding and Day School for Girls 7-16 and Boys 7-10 years

The school is international in outlook, and there is a specialist tuition in English as a second language throughout the year. The staff are highly qualified and there is a wide range of subjects at both A and O levels. Study bursaries are available. The school is situated near the beach, but stands 100 feet above sea level.

Full details from the Headmistress:

ST. MARY'S GATE, SOUTHBOURNE, BOURNEBOURNE.

Tel. Bournemouth (01202) 428041

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Full details from:

The Headmaster, Clayesmore Preparatory School, Iwerne Minster, Dorset DT11 8PH. Tel. Farnham 871707

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C of E Boarding School for girls aged 11 to 18. Broad-based curriculum to "O" and "A" Level. Activities include Riding, Judo, Ballet, Drama, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Computers. Apply to the Headmistress for prospectus and further information.

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For prospectus and further details please contact the School Secretary, Mrs E. Shillaber, Tel: Newton Abbot (0625) 86008

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For further information please contact:

Admissions Secretary, 01-690 1274.

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Founded by St. Edmund, Bishop of All Hallows in 1661

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TEACHING: High ratio of staff to pupils. Girls prepared for CSE in some subjects, for O and A level in others. Full range of laboratory, well equipped libraries. Excellent facilities for Art, Pottery, Music, and other extra-curricular activities. The School is a member of the Girls' Schools' Association (GSA).

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Prospectus from the Headmistress, Miss A. E. Morris, B.A., B.Ed., All Hallows, Sunday, Bullford, NISS 20U.

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### BADMINGTON SCHOOL-BRISTOL

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## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

# Early planning will lighten financial burden

BY ERIC SHORT

DURING the past months, the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) has had a growing post bag from parents despatched seeking details of where they can get financial help to enable them to complete the education of their children in the private sector.

As a result of these inquiries, ISIS has arranged with National Westminster Bank a loan scheme for members of ISIS which will provide the finance, but at a price.

These recent events hold several lessons for parents wishing to have their children educated privately.

The first and most obvious to parents is that private education is highly expensive and getting more so each year. Fees in the most expensive boys' schools are now exceeding £1,000 a term for boarders, while the average for boys' boarding is around £1,700 a term.

The annual survey of school fees by ISIS has shown that school fee levels have on average risen faster than inflation for more than a decade. Indications are that this trend could continue for the next decade or so, given the expense factors of running schools — salaries, buildings equipment, and so on.

Hence school fees are going

to be a financial burden on parents and this needs to be fully appreciated at the outset. For once the nature of a problem is realised, then parents can start planning to ease that burden.

For the majority of parents, the only way they can pay the fee bills is from current after-tax income. This is inevitable given the nature of other financial commitments on the family — household bills, mortgage payments, and so on.

But if the parent can just afford the fees when the child starts school, the odds are that problems will arise before the schooling is over. The problem is multiplied with each additional child at school overlapping with the others.

The periodic survey from school fee specialists, C. Howard and Partners, reveals that parents go to great lengths to boost the family income and cut down on expenditure in order to meet the fee bill. For many families such sacrifices may well be necessary in order to complete the education.

The next lesson from current events is for parents to start savings well in advance of their children starting school so that the burden is spread when the bills arrive.

It needs to be emphasised that saving in advance will not

meet the bills, just provide part of the cost and that the lion's share of costs will have to come out of current income.

There are a variety of savings schemes on the market from a host of school fee specialists and life assurance companies. Before last year's Budget, life assurance schemes were the cornerstone of such plans because of the tax relief on premiums.

Despite the loss of life assurance premium relief in last year's Budget, life contracts still remain an integral part of savings schemes. However, the planners are making more use of other savings media in their designs — National Savings, building society savings and unit trusts.

Many schemes are now tailored so that the investment is at a low level at outset and builds up over the period in line with the rise in earnings of the parents.

The problem with all planning, which many parents do not appreciate is that 10 years is a comparatively short time over which to build up worthwhile savings.

The next lesson for parents is that they should be prepared to use whatever capital assets

WE'VE PUT HIS NAME DOWN FOR ETON AND OURS DOWN FOR CAREY STREET



come to hand. Most schools in the private sector have schemes for receiving lump sum payments ahead of the child starting school.

The specialist firms and the life companies also have lump sum savings schemes. Parents need to shop around to find the best buys on the market.

The C. Howard survey also

revealed that in one family in five, financial help was provided by grandparents in meeting the fee bills.

If grandparents wish to make annual payments, then the most tax efficient means of doing this is by means of a trust for the child. The child can reclaim basic rate tax on the gift, thus increasing the amount paid and no tax is paid if the money is invested.

In addition, grandparents are more likely to be in a position to make capital payments towards the fee bill. The schemes mentioned above also apply to grandparents with one important proviso. Grandparents need to check out the Capital Transfer Tax situation.

Then parents need to check out from the schools themselves any sources of financial help. Many schools offer scholarships and bursaries to various categories of children and parents should make inquiries.

Finally, if all else fails, then parents may have to consider taking loans to help meet the fee burden. Most parents see the value of their house appreciate over the years, yet are unable to unlock this asset, unless they change houses. The

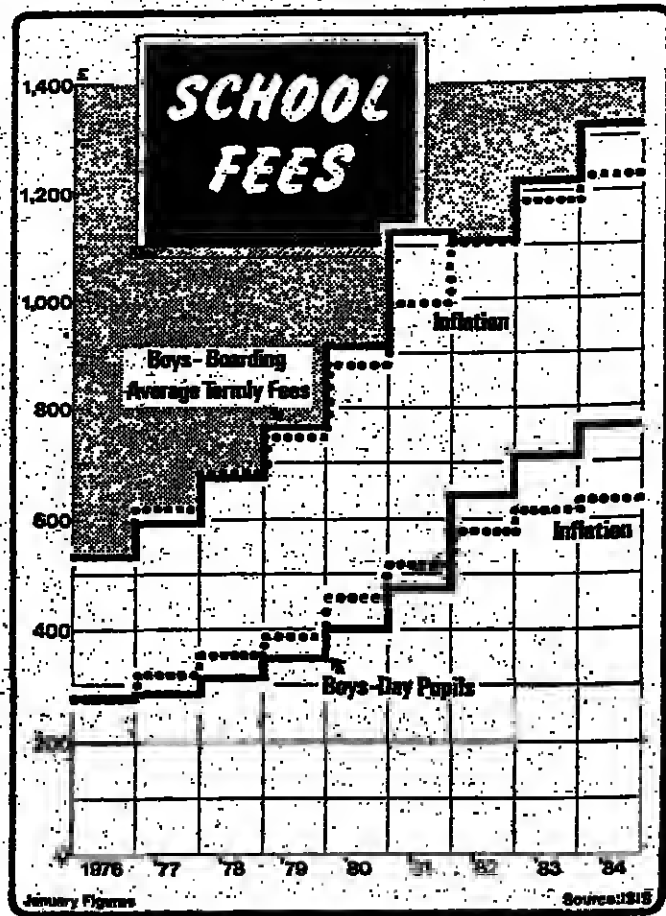
C. Howard survey showed that some families did just this, often trading down to a less expensive house.

However, most families are reluctant to move. A loan scheme enables them to use the capital appreciation by taking out a mortgage on the house.

The NatWest scheme uses second mortgages to provide the finance. But it may be less cumbersome for the parent to refinance the mortgage. There are several alternatives that parents should consider.

The final lesson for parents is the need to plan every step of the way from making the initial savings when the child is very young to taking out a loan to enable the child's education to be completed. This is the message that ISIS gives to its members and one that cannot be emphasised too strongly. Package plans are a poor substitute for well thought out and constantly revised planning arrangements.

ISIS has a variety of leaflets explaining these various aspects, together with a list of advisers. Details from Mrs R. Theobald, Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.



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BEST SCHOOL

## Oxbridge retains its hold

BY MICHAEL DIXON

GETTING a place at Oxford or Cambridge University has for centuries been generally regarded, in England and Wales at least, as the best possible educational achievement for a child at school. Even the opening of new universities and polytechnics as part of the UK's four-fold post-war increase in the number of students on degree courses seems to have done nothing to reduce the premium value placed on Oxbridge entry.

The premium, which may even be increasing, cannot be attributed simply to social snobbery of parents or academic snobbery of schoolteachers. The evidence is that there remains a marked preference for people with an Oxbridge higher education among UK employers too.

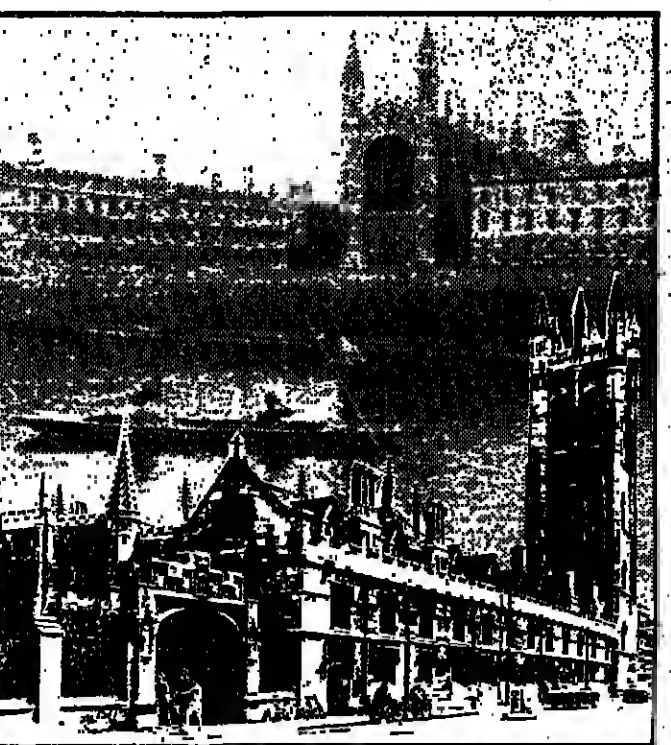
Take for instance the list of the origins of recent recruits supplied by a big legal firm in response to a survey of employers by Brunel University. The list read: Oxford and Cambridge 128, all the other 44 universities put together 128, polytechnics 2.

It is therefore clear why one of the strongest selling points of the more academically orientated independent schools has been the expertise they have developed in preparing their bright scholars for Oxford and for Cambridge entrance examinations.

As academic criteria for admitting new students, almost all the other institutions rely on results in the public exams, particularly Advanced levels. The standard practice is to offer student places to young applicants a few months before they sit A levels, on condition that they subsequently achieve certain grades in the exam which is typically taken by 18-year-olds in the sixth and last term of their final two years at school.

Most universities co-ordinate their entry procedures through the Universities Central Council on Admissions. Through UCCA, a candidate can fill in a single form and have it circulated as an application to several different institutions.

UCCA has also often come to the rescue of candidates who have fallen a bit short of the grades stipulated by the university which conditionally accepted them. Even as late as



Leading independents are doubtful that the retiming of entrance exams will bring about any marked increase in the proportion of state-school pupils admitted to Oxford or Cambridge.

August when the A-level results are announced, the council's clearing house can enable disappointed examinees to find a place on an alternative course starting in the autumn.

Oxford and Cambridge are exceptions in that, although admitting a large share of their undergraduates on the basis of A-level results, they continue to select a good many others through their own entrance exams. These have customarily been held in the winter, with the successful candidates being offered places to start in the October of the following term.

Where the private sector of schooling is concerned, the custom particularly in the boys' schools has been for Oxbridge candidates to return after the holidays following their A-level exams for special grooming for the winter exams. Since this means spending a further spell at school beyond their sixth term as senior pupils, the

seventh-term exam gives an unfairly advantageous chance of admission to young people whose families are wealthy enough to pay the fees of independent schools with long developed expertise in preparation for the Oxbridge papers.

But leading independents seem extremely doubtful that the re-timing will bring about any marked increase in the proportion of state-school pupils admitted to Oxford or Cambridge at the expense of the previously higher success rate of candidates from the private sector.

Of the two universities' different strategies, the boys' independents appear generally to prefer Cambridge's plan to hold its entrance test in the same term as A levels. This staging of Oxford's exam two terms earlier is viewed as far more disruptive to the candidate's regular school career, especially in highly academic schools with large numbers of pupils set on an Oxford degree.

On the other hand, girls' schools with fewer candidates for the two universities see less difficulty in preparing pupils for the fourth-term Oxford test. "I'm more apprehensive about how Cambridge's sixth-term exam will fit in with the UCCA system, so that people who don't discover until the late summer that they have not been accepted by Cambridge can find an alternative course somewhere else," said one headmaster.

But the main worry of the heads of independent girls' and boys' schools alike is that the new Oxbridge arrangements may reinforce the increasing pressure on young people to get into university generally, leading to a further narrowing of concentration on exam-passing at the expense of broader studies and other school activities.

"We shall try to resist any turning away from non-examined work," says Mr Martin Rogers, chief master of Kine Edward's, Birmingham. "But if parents want more concentration on exams, resisting will be uphill struggle, even though any greater academic specialisation could hardly be to the benefit either of pupils or of the country as a whole."

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Senior School: Millfield, Somerset BA16 0YD. Junior School: Edgely Hall, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8LD. Tel: Glastonbury 02446. Applications to the Trust for Admissions (Tel: 1-1) C. R. E. Ashton, B.A., M.A. D.L.C. 100 boarders, 150 day pupils. 13-18. 165. Annual 10. Oxford 40 subjects for 'O' level, 30 for 'A' level. Modern languages. Orchestras, chess, string, wind and brass ensembles. 70 available. Over 100 universities. 20 available. 90 to 100 per cent. Both schools are co-educational, situated in pleasant Somerset countryside, within an hour's car journey from Bath. Flexible policy over age of entry. Enquiries welcomed and preliminary tours arranged. BURSARIES available for full-time talent. Academic and Music SCHOLARSHIPS examinations held annually. Further SCHOLARSHIPS available for Sixth Form entry for pupils of outstanding academic ability.

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The Dame Alice Harpur School (GSA), Cardington Road, Bedford. TUITION FEE: Upper School — £1,017. Lower School — £1,017.  
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Entrance to Queenswood is by the Common Entrance Examinations at 11+, 12+ or 13+. Generous scholarships are offered to girls under 14 and to those entering the Sixth Form. Music scholarships are also available; one has a value of two-thirds full fees.  
Prospectus and further details from: The Registrar, Queenswood, Brookmans Park, Herts. AL5 8NS. Telephone: Potters Bar 52362.

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## BOOKS

## Sterling stuff from an old campaigner

BY MICHAEL PROWSE

**Sterling: Its use and misuse, a plea for moderation**  
by Douglas Jay. Sidgwick & Jackson. £15.00. 288 pages

Young economists should turn off their computers long enough to read Douglas Jay's dazzling new book. Sterling bellies its unappealing title. It is not another tedious account of foreign exchange markets but a subtle discussion by an old master of the dilemmas of modern macroeconomic management. The final section in particular is a brilliant distillation of hard-won insights which the present generation is doing its foolish best to forget.

There are, as Mr Jay patiently explains, three "crucial flows" in a monetary economy. The first is total effective demand—money GDP in modern parlance. The second is total output—the flow of real goods and services. The third is total costs—the flow of money payments to factors of production (wages, profits, rent and so forth) corresponding to the full utilisation of all re-

sources. This third flow is rather subtle; normally it is a hypothetical rather than an actual number—it is the flow of costs which would emerge were all resources fully employed (which is seldom the case).

In a nutshell, the macroeconomic problem is to keep these three flows roughly in balance. The historical evidence supports Mr Jay's assertion (an echo from Keynes's *General Theory*) that there is no natural force, no hidden hand which automatically steers them into equality.

Most attention today tends to focus on the relation between total demand and total output, since this (rather than the stock of money) is what in general determines the price level. But the relationship between money GDP and total (hypothetical) costs is even more important because in any short period it will determine the proportion of available human and physical resources which are actually employed.

If total (rather than actual) costs exceed total demand (as Mr Jay claims they did by

about 10-15 per cent in 1979-84), unemployment will be the result. Mr Jay thus provides a crystal clear explanation of how in the 1980s there can be a lack of effective demand even though money GDP is rising at about 8 per cent per annum. The point is that if actual costs (which are 70-75 per cent determined by labour costs) are also rising at this rate, there will be no margin of demand over to meet the extra potential costs which would be associated with full employment.

The "central dilemma" of modern macroeconomics is that the costs associated with full employment tend to rise much faster than the potential growth of real output. This presents policy-makers with an invidious choice. If money demand is raised fast enough to keep pace with potential costs and prevent unemployment, it will rise faster than output itself and inflation will be the consequence. But if the growth of demand is kept below that of potential costs, unemployment will as inevitably be the result. Without control

of costs, either inflation or unemployment or both is impossible to avoid.

Mr Jay has no quarrel with the near-universal acceptance that the growth of nominal demand must, in some sense, be managed (although he would rightly argue that monetary growth targets as such are quite redundant). But he maintains this is only half the battle: it puts an upper bound on inflation but unless steps are also taken to manage costs, output will remain far below potential and unemployment needlessly high. The author is driven to conclude that, whatever the drawbacks, there can be no rational alternative to an incomes policy.

Anybody who doubts the force of this should reflect as follows. Suppose by some miracle (the plunge of sterling perhaps), something close to full employment was restored. Bearing in mind that pay is rising at 7-8 per cent per annum even when 3m are unemployed, is it conceivable that at full employment the rise in costs could be limited to, say, 3 per

cent—the sustainable growth of real output?

Mr Jay correctly identifies cost-push inflation, the tendency of workers to demand nominal pay increases far in excess of the potential growth of output, as the root cause of his "central dilemma". But he does not explain adequately the underlying cause of the cost-push pressure itself. Why did it emerge as a serious problem only in the late 1960s? He does, however, concede that an incomes policy would be successful only if it were accompanied by a "higher standard of social justice in the distribution of property and income".

Here, surely, is the nub of the contemporary macroeconomic problem. A modern, non-deferential, non-hierarchical society, such as was emerging by the late 1960s, is simply not happy with the distribution of income thrown up by market forces. The market says that for a given endowment (of brainpower as well as financial assets), your pay and standard of living will be determined by your productivity (bar the

limited redistribution through the tax system). But it seems contrary to social justice that the hardworking surgeon should therefore receive so much more than the equally industrious car-worker.

The inflation of nominal values caused by cost-push is irrational for society as a whole but not for different groups unhappy with the status quo. It seems probable that until very basic issues of income distribution are openly debated, an incomes policy would break down—because it would tend to freeze an existing and somewhat arbitrary distribution. It would break down because it would treat the symptoms, not the cause, of the cost-push disease.

Yet there is no way back. Even Thatcherite policies cannot recreate a Victorian society where people know their place and are broadly content with the distribution of income thrown up by the market. If Britain's output is ever again for a prolonged period to approximate to the economy's physical capacity to produce,



Douglas Jay: still something to learn from Keynes

the terms of our macroeconomic debate must be broadened beyond a discussion of monetary targets and absurdities such as the "natural" rate of unemployment.

## Gods, monsters, poets and mortals

BY ROBIN LANE FOX

**A History of Greek Literature**  
by Peter Levi. Viking. £14.95. 511 pages

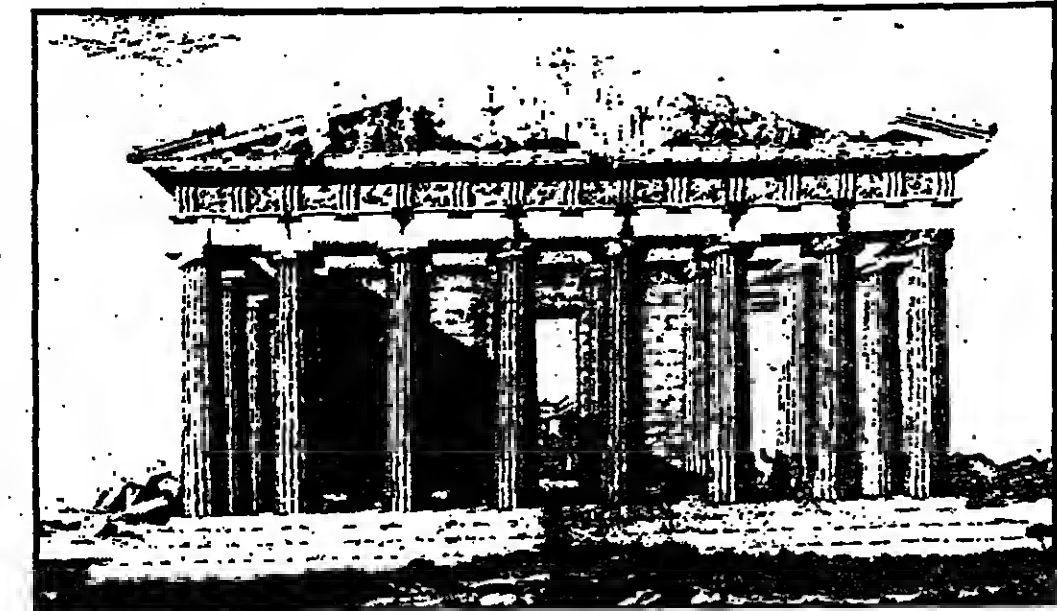
The Professor of Poetry at Oxford is a figure of whose existence most undergraduates are unaware. He is not expected to do anything so shameful as recite his own poems: one or two of the Professors have not even been poets. He is required to give lectures in return for a small wage. The post is very bureaucratic and is better for being filled by public vote, a process which usually arouses more interest than the winner's eventual lectures.

Peter Levi's election last year surprised nobody. He is an Oxford man who read and taught classical Greek. He has published several books of poetry and although he would be the last person to claim to be a leading poet, he knows much more poetry than some who might. He has a remarkable range of interest and knowledge which extends to the poetry of any language or culture. This range is just right for a Professor: some of it attaches to Peter Levi's own travels, the lamentations for the dead in modern Greece, which he made in part the theme of his inaugural lecture, or the androphonic songs in the fields of eastern Afghanistan, where he has travelled and written poetry himself. Some of the range, I suspect, derives from

his years as a Jesuit, a vocation which does attach to a world-wide culture and can sometimes encourage a broad, not exclusively European view.

Recently, Peter Levi has published a Penguin anthology of Christian verse and this History of Greek literature, as well as a crime-thriller. I have not read the thriller, but I recommend the History of Greek Literature to everyone, whether or not they know Greek. Its subject is one of the miracles of human achievement, mostly a male achievement, admittedly, but including Sappho and the minor poetess Anyte, for whom Peter Levi has a winning affection. He takes us on the entire Grand Tour, from the pre-literate composition of Homer to the highly literate essays of Plutarch and others a thousand years later. He talks engagingly to the reader as he goes along and likes to appreciate and characterise rather than criticise. His taste is excellent: works which he recommends deserve to be recommended and he does not go overboard for minor Greek epigrams at the expense, say, of Aeschylus.

What exactly should a history of literature be, let alone the history of a literature of which the majority, including many masterpieces, has not survived? There is a respectable case, as Peter Levi recognises, for no literary "history" at all. He opts for a series of appreciations; taking the authors as they occur and trying to give an impression of their work. To



An eighteenth century drawing by Richard Dalton of the Parthenon from the east. It is one of the illustrations on "The Travels of Lord Charlemont in Greece and Turkey, 1749" available from Trigraph, West Africa House, Hanger Lane, London W5 at £13.50. There is a limited edition of 200 copies bound in leather at £50. The memoirs of this lively aristocratic traveller are taken from his own unpublished journals edited by E. J. Finopoulos and the late William Bedell Stanford

succeed, should a "history" narrate plots and the contents of the books, or should it try to lure readers to read them afterwards, much as Virginia Woolf's enchanting essays lure readers to any of the authors who she sketches? In classical Greece, the options are fewer, because we know next to nothing about the authors' lives. Peter Levi is particularly apt where we have any idea of the author as a man. Elsewhere, a "history" can only be about their writings, a very daunting subject. I know nobody who could write well on Homer, the dramatists, the historians and Plato's philosophy, all in one book. I know many many classicists, including myself, who have not read and appreciated nearly as much Greek

literature as Peter Levi so obviously has. For many specialists, the subject is still a chance for conjectural work on texts, to ensure that there are fewer, but better, lines of Greek tragedy.

In places, Peter Levi can only find room for some general, rhetorical praise. At times, I wish he had risked a little more on the relation between authors and their literary forms and the surrounding history of the Greek world. He does not quite convey the issues and questions which fascinated the great historians. Polybius included. His prose has always liked imagery from the natural world, but some of it is rather too fishy. Does the texture of Homer's language really suggest the "scales of a salmon" or

mackerel? and does the language of Meander's comedies really "jump about like a basket of live fish"?

Peter Levi is particularly sensitive to metre and the remarkable craft of Greek poetry; he respects modern scholarship, with which he is in touch; he adds the man of letters' refreshing details and analogies which keep literature alive and bring out the Greeks' literary after-life. His book is much the most enjoyable on the subject and can only chasten most parents who are conspiring to cut off their young from one of the past's most extraordinary feats. Perhaps Greek literature is its own worst enemy: it is a measure of its quality that translations which even Peter Levi quotes and offers are so remote from their originals.

## Homecoming

BY ANTHONY CURTIS

**The Tenth Man**  
by Graham Greene. Bodley Head. Anthony Blond. £6.95. 158 pages

Most people must be aware by now of the strange publication history of this "new" novel by Graham Greene. It was written 40 years ago when Mr Greene was under a "slave" contract to MGM. He then forgot about it—how you forget about 40,000 words worth of intense creative effort is a mystery no one has yet explained—and so did the film company.

It was exhumed in 1983 by a senior executive at MGM and shown by him to Anthony Blond who made the journey to Antioch to hear the author in his den (rather, his regular restaurant) to try to persuade him to allow The Tenth Man to be published. After some elegant shadow-boxing on both sides, during which Mr Greene agreed to read a novel written by Mr Blond the next time he (Greene) had to suffer a long convalescence, a deal was

struck. Joint publication by Mr Blond's revived imprint and Mr Greene's regular British publisher was arranged.

This coming Moody, therefore, The Tenth Man finally sees the light of day between hard covers, with a short introduction from the author, and synopses of two other potential scenarios for films never made, one of which contains the germ of our Man in Harbana. Like its more famous cousin The Third Man, The Tenth Man turns on the notion of a return among the living of a man supposed to be dead. In this instance he avoided the death that should have been his fate as a hostage in a prison camp in provincial France during the German occupation by bartering his existence for all his wealth, his house and land, indeed his whole identity as a respectable citizen. In part one, the scene in the camp, one asks oneself if this is not an *à la carte* by Sartre or Camus rather than Greene; but then as the tale moves on to the period of the Liberation with the freed prisoner coming back to Paris to haunt the

cafés and restaurants where he was once a favoured customer, and finally to return to his land so memorably depicted, emerges unmistakably as the product of Graham Greene's flair for turning entertainments into paraboles.

The house is now occupied by the sister and mother of the young man who faced the firing squad. Charlot, as the tramp-like former owner calls himself, falls in love with the sister while suffering from a most acute sense of alienation in the territory over which he once lorded it. The situation is now complicated by an invasion from yet another impostor who actually pretends to be the same man. Greene's shuffling these cards of identity with all the sleight of mind and irony of spirit of that great illusionist we know him to be.

Grateful thanks from one reader, at least to Sam Marks of MGM for rescuing the tale from oblivion. Though, not a masterpiece, it certainly deserves its place in the canon.

## Way ahead for London

BY WILLIAM PLOWDEN

**The Battle For London**  
by Francis Wheen. Pluto. £9.95. 128 pages

**Beyond our Ken: A Guide to the Battle for London**  
by Andrew Forrester, Stewart Lansley, Robin Pauley. 4th Estate £4.95. 206 pages

Faced with the prolonged shambles of the Government's campaign to abolish the GLC and the even more prolonged post-operational trauma that seems likely to follow, the commentator may sometimes find it easiest to take refuge in metaphors or quotations: "own goal, cutting off the nose to spite the face, burning down the house to roast the pig, 'Damn, the torpedoes! full speed ahead.' Not, probably, 'it will be all right on the night'."

The village is full of characters. Mme de la Brosse, the local batteuse, who decides that the Englishman will build a pool over her dead body; Nadia Poniatowski, who sleeps with Larry but is really in love with Dr Prière; Gervaise, who lives with two men; Agnès the virgin, Xavier her knight in less than shining armour—a host of characters, almost all of them concerned one way or another with the act of love. Typically French.

Except of course that their doings are faithfully mirrored across the Channel in Oxford, where Miriam goes to visit her dying mother. Everyone is at it in Oxford too—Gary, Bernice, Dr O—all of them acting out their own particular fantasies in the city of perspiring dreams.

features of the current debate about the government of London (and of the other conurbations). The first is that it has so little impact on events. It is more of a kind of retrospective consultation on the government's plans, marked by occasional Parliamentary revolts; as so many people have pointed out, it would have seemed more logical to have had the discussion before policy commitments were made. Rather than the other way round. It has also been suggested that this approach would have been more "constitutional". The weakness of this argument is that in Britain it is very hard to agree either on how to distinguish issues or approaches that are constitutional from those that are not; or on the proper ways of dealing with those that are.

The second cause for frustration is that, taken as a whole, the debate has for once generated a relatively high degree of heat about the question of how London is governed—but, so far, much less light. The vigorous oversimplifications of the GLC's advertising campaign make it harder than ever to identify who really does what in London, let alone who should do what. Dustbins, snails, brick walls, hard-faced men in bowler hats: the imagery is striking, but does not clarify.

Two simultaneous books now pull some of the threads together. Francis Wheen's lively polemic reviews the steps in the government's abolition programme so far, lovingly lists the good deeds of the GLC and appeals for resolute attempts to

save it. Forrester, Lansley and Pauley, at only slightly greater length, cover much of the same ground but in a less partisan style. Their excellently produced book has maps, charts and even a selective bibliography. It gives an admirably concise account not just of the current battle but of the underlying arguments and issues that make the question of how to govern London, like any major city, so hard to answer. Wheen, by contrast, simplifies much of the inter-borough politics out altogether. He presents the original challenge to the "Even Fair" policy as a straight attack on the Livingstone administration by the Law Lords; Bromley is not even mentioned. If only it were as easy as that.

Almost the most valuable section of Forrester et al is their last. They first briefly review alternatives: to the present two-tier GLC boroughs arrangements (including the very different set-up north of the border). They then even more briefly outline a post-abolition scenario, concluding with the thought that, if as is likely, an increasingly centralised system becomes increasingly unpopular, the re-creation of a London-wide elected body is sure to get back on the political agenda sooner or later. It is hard to disagree with this conclusion. Meanwhile, the prospects are not very attractive for those of us on whom the GLC, for one or two years, has forbidden more years will be inflicted the prospect that you cannot operate a large capital city without some kind of central authority of its own.

## Hero whose fate was all too transparent

BY NICHOLAS BEST

**Walking On Glass**  
by Iain Banks. Macmillan. £5.95. 239 pages

**The Swimming Pool Season**  
by Rose Tremain. Hamish Hamilton. £8.95. 274 pages

When you write a truly sensational first novel, as Iain Banks did in *The Wasp Factory*,

you leave yourself with the problem of what to do next, how best to follow up the unfollowable. For his second novel, *Walking On Glass*, he has tackled the dilemma by dividing his act into three separate stories, linked together in the last few pages, but otherwise quite distinct.

One is pure science fiction. Quiss, old and time-frozen, is

a prisoner in a castle built largely of books and lit by luminous fish. He is guarded by masked dwarves under the command of a seneschal with two pupils in his right eye. He will be set free when he has found the answer to the riddle that happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object? Until then he is condemned to play weird games—spotless dominoes, one-dimensional chess—and to walk the eerie, glass floors of his extraordinary prison, perhaps for ever.

The answer to the riddle lies in the hands of Groux, an earth-bound Londoner who wears a safety helmet at all times because he knows they are after him with a microwave gun. He is an agreeable lunatic who succumbs eventually to a motor bike ridden by the mysterious lover of the third story, a

leather-clad figure whose face is never seen, and for good reason.

As to whether these three ideas mesh together in any meaningful way, the answer must unfortunately be no. In its own right maybe, each might have made a good story, but together they fail to complement each other as well as they ought to. What does come across though is the author's powerful imagination, displayed again here every bit as vividly as in his debut.

Rose Tremain's *The Swimming Pool Season* will appeal to anyone who ever dreamt of owning a cottage in the Dorset, particularly if they are thinking of installing a pool in the back garden. Larry and Miriam Kendall are living out this particular English idyll in the tiny village of Pomeroy, where she paints flowers and he does nothing much, other than

contemplate the designs for his new pool. They are reasonably happy in each other's company, reasonably happy apart too.

The village is full of characters. Mme de la Brosse, the local batteuse, who decides that the Englishman will build a pool over her dead body; Nadia Poniatowski, who sleeps with Larry but is really in love with Dr Prière; Gervaise, who lives with two men; Agnès the virgin, Xavier her knight in less than shining armour—a host of characters, almost all of them concerned one way or another with the act of love. Typically French.

Except of course that their doings are faithfully mirrored across the Channel in Oxford, where Miriam goes to visit her dying mother. Everyone is at it in Oxford too—Gary, Bernice, Dr O—all of them acting out their own particular fantasies in the city of perspiring dreams.

## What to do about countries which cannot settle their debts

BY PETER MONTAGNON

**The Costs of Default**  
by Anatole Kaletsky. Priority Press Publications (41E 70th Street, New York, NY 10021). \$7.00. 116 pages

A disaster which looms but never actually occurs loses its power to frighten people after a while. So it is with the developing country debt crisis which has now been in and out of the headlines for nearly three years.

Bankers have lived with the threat of default by a major debtor in Latin America for so long that many now assume the worst can never happen. Brazil's latest confrontation with the International Monetary Fund produced barely a ripple in the banking community whereas depositors and shareholders alike took fright when a similar situation occurred in

1983. This is all far too complacent according to my colleague Anatole Kaletsky whose study of the problem for the Twentieth Century Fund of the U.S. suggests that a default by one or more of the major debtors is not only still likely but would even bring considerable benefits in terms of economic growth and savings of foreign exchange.

Kaletsky argues that the harsh economic adjustment programmes applied to the debtors so far have left them facing an impossible future. Though principal is now rescheduled they still have to meet an interest burden so large that many will have to run trade surpluses much bigger in relative terms than that of Japan just to raise the cash.

Quite apart from the risk that efforts to do so may run slap

into a wall of protectionism or world economic downturn, the cost in social and economic terms is daunting. In Brazil, for example, the domestic constraints caused by the need to generate huge trade surpluses will mean that it will take another seven years for living standards to recover merely to their level of 1980.

But Brazil is also one country which, Kaletsky argues, could reap large benefits from a partial default. By doing so he calculates it would save \$8.5bn a year on average between 1985 and 1989 which would more than provide enough money for imports to recover in their peak level of before the crisis.

Moreover, the penalties facing Brazil in the form of confiscation by creditors of assets abroad (which is legally very difficult) and the loss of

short-term trade credits are far less severe than many debtors think. So long as Brazil continued to service its supplier credits it might be eligible for more as its imports rose. Creditor governments might also be reluctant to side with the banks in seeking retaliation for default on financial loans, not least because jobs would be protected at home by the increased trade flows.

The balance thus comes down firmly on the side of what Kaletsky calls a "conciliatory default" in which countries like Brazil, more in sorrow than in anger, tell their bankers they will no longer pay at market rates. (Other creditors like the World Bank suppliers and governments would still be paid to isolate the banks.)

This is a seductive argument, not I personally would still put the chances of such an explicit

default by a big debtor more in the realm of the possible rather than the probable. Kaletsky underestimates some of the more subjective reasons of borrowers who are loath to default in public.

First the consequences are incalculable. Second there is an astonishing degree of moral purpose even in the seemingly most hopeless cases. Their finance ministers will tell you emphatically that default is wrong and against their national pride. Third, there is a mere thought that vital trade credit could be lost. And fourth there is a genuine fear of default leading to such a profound loss of confidence at home that capital flight becomes endemic, the national currency becomes worthless. (This has happened to one small debtor, Bolivia, which has declared a partial

default) and the borrower ends up even less governable than before.

Still Kaletsky's argument is a sobering reminder of just how fragile the situation remains. With their rapidly increasing foreign exchange reserves—Brazil now has some \$7bn in readily available cash—the debtors are in a much stronger position to state their terms than they were two years ago. And what they now want above all else is the opportunity to restore the living standards of their afflicted populations.

Any solution to the debt crisis must address this problem. "If it really boils down to a choice between paying our debts and economic growth, then we would have to choose growth," one senior Latin American Minister told me.

هكذا من الضمير







The Power of Theatrical Madness, ICA/Michael Coveney

## Creating drama on the spot

Arriving at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in the Mall on Thursday night, Jan Fabre's *The Power of Theatrical Madness* is an astonishing reassertion of the vitality of the European avant-garde theatre as well as a fresh and outrageous critique. It dates from last year's Venice Biennale and is a co-production of Fabre's Brussels base and the Micky in Amsterdam. Its theatrical antecedents are Robert Wilson and Pina Bausch; and its presence in London is an indictment of our own levels of funding for this sort of work and, no doubt, an encouraging allusion to our own toilers in the performance art vanguard.

Fabre is 35 years old and has his company of 11 all under 30. Their subject is the dislocation between the representation of love in art and its crude and cruel reality. In white shirts and black suits, the company face upstage. Eventually they click into action, shifting weight from hip to hip. Against a classical projection of *Amour and Psyche* a girl turns to face us, displays her right bosom and holds it with the cool indifference of a Renaissance madonna.

This is not a show for those with buses to catch. It lasts four and a half hours. The audience come and go so that their noise and restlessness, in fact, become part of the performance. Is that man leaving to buy a beer or to express disapproval? The first real "test" comes when a blonde girl, for about 20 minutes, tries to clamber on the stage. She is denied access in the material and savage manner by a warder figure, who demands her name and number and kicks her away. "Wagner" is the password.

The interweaving of state intervention in affairs of the heart and the destructive nature of passion itself is reflected in the soundtrack's recourse to Richard Strauss's *Salome* and Wagner's *Tristan*. First, in absurdist vein, two nude kings embark on a tango amid the rising babble of supplicating warders offering clothes in a sequence of nightmarish repetitiveness, the kings caught in a superb choreography of double perspective. Next, the "Liebestod" is sung—very beautifully—by a blindfolded



Classical pieta in the European avant-garde

Isolde progressing along the edge of the stage, sometimes falling off, and encountering time and again, her blindfolded Tristan/Jokanaan at whom she slashes with a knife.

"Si je t'aime, preads garde a toi" warns Carmen, and the singing the "Habanera" is intercut with face slaps and severe looks. The cruel insouciance of Isolde's reclining nude odalisque is again a dominant image, one of many classical projections the case try to emulate: the extraordinary thing is the extent to which they succeed, for Fabre's brilliant spatial and rigorously detailed choreography is, in the end, joyously celebratory of the human form.

One of the most terrifying moments comes early on when the cast, whose faces so far are obscured, turn and stare at us over their shoulders, unquestionably a look back in *Ingres*, and the *Amour and Psyche* painting, one of the most graceful adornments of the Louvre, is nervously wracked upon in the show's final act entirely shattering quadrille. By this time, a slow motion flying Cupid has broken down, sobbing with exhaustion.

You know the feeling. Like the best of Wilson and Bausch, the performance. In addition to taking violent liberties with our expectations of theatrical time, Fabre's *Power of Theatrical Madness* is a process itself. And ferociously running on the spot, the actors shout a garbled litany of dates and milestones in contemporary theatre: Brecht's *King Lear*, Beck's *Porridge*, Noë, Grotowski's *The Constant Prince*. Is this what is known as running down the avant-garde? I must ask Mr

Peregrine Worsthorne, or perhaps the chairman of the Arts Council.

The litany is later expanded from 1960s iconography to include Bausch's *Kontinuität* (to which Fabre is obviously indebted), Chereau's *Peer Gynt*, Heide Müller. Away with them all, Fabre says, we must create our own theatre now. Indeed he must, and perhaps above all one staggers away from the ICA intoxicated by the sheer regenerative will of Fabre's company.

The show plays tonight at the ICA and again next Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is entirely sold out, so you may have to bribe the box office staff. Failing that, travellers in Europe may catch it in Lisbon, on its subsequent Italian tour, or else in Brussels in May. I would not have missed it for the world.

## A People's Artist who became a non-person

A taste for the autobiographies of famous singers, though sometimes addictive to insiders, is not one to which musically sophisticated people will confess readily. The product quite often is "ghosted", and even if the records of names, dates and places will (if accurate, which often is doubtful) one day come in handy to the opera historian, the apparent absence of intellectual apparatus—even in a Domingo—tends to prove all-powerful.

Further back in time, the great prima donnas—the Melbas, Ferraris, Calves, and Mary Gardens—may have had experience of considerable hardship to relate, yet a prevailingly sweet-toothed manner in the telling cloaks the book in perfumed unreality. Only rarely—Shalypin (talking to Gorky), Frida Leider, and more recently Régine Crespin and Janet Baker—does the singer-narrator emerge with levels and issues beyond those of direct relevance to the hermetically sealed world of the opera house.

All this helps to emphasise the magnitude of Vishnevskaya's achievement and why Gelin deserves the widest possible circulation. For, in it, she has produced one of the most testaments of a performing artist, a ringingly forceful and uninhibited personal outpouring into which also is concentrated a social, musical, and theatrical history of her country across a crucial (and often surprisingly little-documented) period of time.

Among Russian singers, Vishnevskaya's damage to levels alongside Shalypin (to whom she confesses pride in being compared) as the greatest

Galina—A Russian Story by Galina Vishnevskaya, Hesperus & Slough, £14.95, 519 pages

natural talent in a century or so of operatic history. This is one of those creative interpreters who cannot be fitted into comfortable moulds, who come along to break and remake them where necessary. She re-invented traditional role assignments at the Bolshoi and was an inspiration to composers—quite properly so, for her soprano possessed a pliant, gentle throat, incomparable at its peak, the special qualities of which have been preserved even in more recent times.

Vishnevskaya takes an understandable pride in her purely vocal achievement; much of this book, which is written with sweeping vividness and a keen eye for detail, is taken up with her startling rise through the Bolshoi ranks to eventual international fame—the first modern Soviet singer to chart such a course.

But there is more, lending this book an epic quality quite unfamiliar to the genre. For Vishnevskaya was born to bitter poverty and hardship, to early separation from parents and subsequent near-mortal starvation (described with unseemingly eloquence) in the war-torn blockade of Leningrad. And in the period before the exile abroad of herself, two daughters and husband Rostropovich in 1974—which is where the book ends—she experienced all the persecutions that could be licensed by official disapproval of their protection of Solzhenitsyn.

We read with compulsive fascination and horror the grim catalogue: betrayals by colleagues (the mezzo Obraztsova comes in for a particular bashing); the bounding of the great cellist and conductor out of the leading Russian halls; and her own gradual effacement from public mention. As a People's Artist she couldn't easily be removed from the stage; but her name stopped appearing in print and since her departure all traces of her two decades as leading Bolshoi soprano has been eradicated.



Galina Vishnevskaya as Tosca in the 1977 Covent Garden production

catalogue: betrayals by colleagues (the mezzo Obraztsova comes in for a particular bashing); the bounding of the great cellist and conductor out of the leading Russian halls; and her own gradual effacement from public mention. As a People's Artist she couldn't easily be removed from the stage; but her name stopped appearing in print and since her departure all traces of her two decades as leading Bolshoi soprano has been eradicated.

In between comes the germination of the artist, first as a touring cabaret singer (often in hideously primitive conditions), later in opera; and with this comes a record of the inner workings of one of the world's great theatres, alongside a depiction of the quotidian battles of non-élite Russian citizens, that is wonderfully revealing. Vishnevskaya's meat and potatoes in sharp little cameos, the Kremlin bosses on whom Bolshoi artists were forced to

dance attendance—Stalin, Bulganin (whose passion for the young soprano forms a comic subplot), Krushchev, Furtseva (a character almost out of Boris), Brezhnev and others pass in review. If, at times, the recall of humiliations suffered and power abused leads to an almost operatic rhetorical flourish—"Mother Russia, how long will you grieve for your hanged? Fight back! Avenge your ravaged, tortured children!"—we feel that it is come by honestly and unleashed with genuine grandeur.

Every bit as valuable are the portraits of composers and performers with whom she worked. Alexander Melik-Pashayev, whom record-collectors know as one of the leading "vocal" conductors of the century, was her mentor, and she revered him; and there is a loving memoir of happy times with Benjamin Britten. I don't know of another book in which Shostakovich springs so completely to life—Vishnevskaya's defence of his artistic credo is powerful and convincing.

The characterisation of her husband—impulsive lover and enthusiast, driven by the consequences of a noble act to drink and despair—is tender and close-eyed in equal measure. And the singer herself is painted warts and all, quick to anger, tactless, calculating, but with the saving grace of unsparring honesty that informs the whole book. It has been translated into American, with excellent results. Photographs have been superbly well chosen.

Max Loppert

## A new world that the UN could not foresee

When Radio 3 touches current affairs, it usually scores a hit (look for instance, at that vital weekly mini-GCQ, *Six Continents*). A *Truce to Terror*, a three-part study of the United Nations by Michael Charlton, started off admirably yesterday, a 45-minute dialogue with Brian Urquhart, who has served that body for 30 years and been an Under-Secretary-General for 10. Charlton is an insistent interrogator, and Urquhart was ideally straightforward in what he said. He began by admitting that he was surprised to find that people in the UN actually

believed that the Charter for peace and security was going to work as written, when the fact is that the UN was created to deal with a world that no longer existed, the world of the 30s. The new order failed to anticipate the reality or conditions after the war, because of mistaken assumptions that the major powers were to remain friendly and that the lesson of the war would make people work at keeping the peace. Moreover, no one foresaw the troubles in Palestine, Cyprus or Cuba. The accession of 100 new nations has resulted in disputes being polarised rather than

solved. "Members are all for the principles of the Charter as long as they work in their favour," he said.

There was interesting talk about the Congo intervention and about Hammarskjöld; about the Israeli-Egyptian conflict and U Thant; about peace-keeping in Syria and Lebanon. Is it worth of date? "We must find a system to prevent the worst, even if it doesn't promote the best, and it does seem to me that it's worth doing." The two further talks will be with Conor Cruise O'Brien and Kurt Waldheim.

The first of five Radio 4 talks

on *The State of the Vatican* (a deliberately ambiguous title, I suppose) was less interesting than I had hoped because I was misled by the ambiguity. Bernard Jackson's first programme was aimed at the tourist audience. It began with the voice of the Pope in English, difficult to understand, and went on to snatches of interviews with tourists who were sentimental, religious, or ignorant, but always tourists. It became informative, but in a guide-book way. It touched on history as far back as AD 64, when St Peter moved his headquarters to Rome, only to be crucified in AD 67. We heard

## RADIO

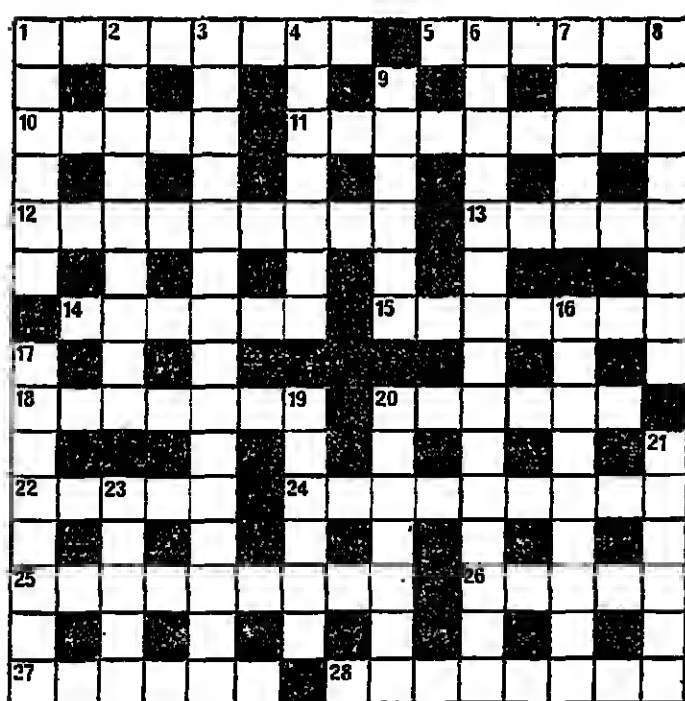
B. A. YOUNG

of the Emperor Constantine's transfer to Constantinople of Pope Gregory VII's invention of clerical celibacy in the 11th century, of the reform of the calendar, and so on. But in tell us, for instance, that the Vatican bank has never published a balance sheet, and leave it there, is not enough. Still, there are four other programmes to come, and we are promised more about the bank, and about the art collections, and I dare say a good deal besides, in those.

The Wordsmiths at Gorse were seemed a promising idea,

with a hint of *Gold Comfort* Farm about it. I've been disappointed by the first two instalments. Fun with the Wordsmiths in their Lake District fastnesses is a novel whim for a Radio 4 lunchtime comic half-hour. But the comedy is almost slapstick-silly. Coleridge, called Choleridge, Byron is Biron. There are a few decent jokes, and director Jonathan James Moore has been faithful to the author. Sue Limb, by giving her super-comedian Denis Coffey for Dorothy. But he's also put in a male-voice quartet for background music, singing "Ripple, ripple, ripple, baa, baa." It's too much like *Fundation*, too little like *Ye Minister*. Wordsworth deserves better.

## F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5,664



A correct solution of 10 will be given to each of the senders of the first five correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Winners and solutions will be given next Saturday.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

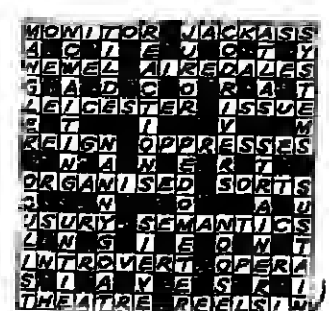
### ACROSS

- 1 Shallow angle of skate, for example (8)
- 5 Get a bandage — the saw slipped (6)
- 10 Street furrow to Peacock's Walk (3)
- 11 Nasty attack (9)
- 12 Letter-opener (9)
- 13 Daggers drawn (5)
- 14 Perhaps gilt the bloom (6)
- 15 Is it caught on a lead? (7)
- 18 Student less fatigued (7)
- 20 Silver marsh-grass made compact (6)
- 22 Borderline teams? (5)
- 24 Sort of concert at the front (6)
- 25 Day of stray moon, off course? (9)
- 26 Effortless work in great river (5)
- 27 See 'em embracing young horse — Black Bess, for instance (8)
- 28 First at Bath, horse in early being worthless (8)

### DOWN

- 4 Set of spoons right for a godfather? (7)
- 6 Light horticulture? (6-8)
- 7 Double point for this twist (5)
- 8 Visionary power of eight? Yes, potentially! (9)
- 9 Where plank-walker goes to sin (6)
- 16 Self-confessed columnist, we hear, this Norseman (9)
- 17 Averse to theatre not being seen by spectators... (3-5)
- 19... theatre-company carrying weight in Derbyshire (6)
- 21 Done any prescription for pain-killer? (7)
- 23 Knitted garment that is lower (6)
- 24 Tot I'd order — the same again (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 5,663



## BBC 1

Indicates programme in black and white

- 8.30 am Roobarb. 8.35 Battle of the Planets (cartoon). 9.00 Saturday Superstore. 12.12 pm Weather News.
- 1.15 pm News Summary: Football Focus with Bob Wilson: Ice Skating (World Championships from Japan): Racing from Chesham at 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30. Athletics: Reports of the day's action from Gosford when England v U.S. for the Kodak Classic: Rugby League: The Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Hull v Widnes: Final Score at 4.40.
- 3.05 pm News.
- 5.13 Regional programmes.
- 5.20 Doctor Who.
- 6.05 Jim'll Fix It.
- 6.40 The Laughter Show.
- 7.15 One By One.
- 8.05 Dymally.
- 8.53 Bergeret.
- 9.50 News and Sport.
- 10.05 Match Of The Day.
- 11.05 "The Sweet Ride," starring Tony Franciosa, Michael Sarrazin and Jacqueline Bisset.

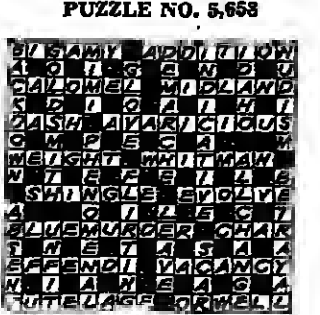
## BBC 2

- 6.25 am Open University.
- 3.10 pm Micro Live.
- 7.40 pm Saturday Cinema Double Bill: "We're Not Dressing," starring Bing Crosby and Carol Lombard, and at 5.10 "Invaders From Mars."
- 6.30 The World Championship of Cricket.

## REGIONS

- Wales—6.30-9.00 am Rugby Union: Try, Try Again. 5.15-5.20 pm Sports News Wales.
- Scotland—5.15-5.20 pm Sports News Scotland.
- Northern Ireland—4.55-5.05 pm Northern Ireland Results (opt-out from "Grandstand"). 5.15-5.20 pm Northern Ireland News. 12.30-12.35 am Northern Ireland News Headlines.
- England—3.15-5.20 pm London—Sport: South-West (Plymouth) Spotlight Sport and News: All other English regions—Sport and Regional News.

## SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 5,663



Mrs C. Plackett, 57, Highbury, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mrs S. Lim, 33, Brampton Grove, Hendon, London, NW4; Mr Alan Stripp, The Old Green, Greeo Lane, Linton, Cambridge; Mr Ivan Lee, 8, Rymount Court, Lovelace Road, Sorbiton, Surrey; Mr H. J. Sargerson, 28, Hamlyn Avenue, Anlaby Road, Hull.

## 7.20 News and Sport.

- 7.40 France: Actualité: "The White Crisis"—the future of table wine production in the Languedoc is examined in the fourth of five films on modern France.
- 8.05 Major Dundee, directed by Sam Peckinpah and starring Charlton Heston, Richard Harris and Senta Berger.
- 10.05 Blott On The Landscape.
- 11.00 International Pro-Celebrity Golf: Johnny Hill and Ian St John v Nick Faldo and Jimmy Tarbuck.
- 11.50-12.45 am Rugby Special featuring the John Player Special Cup quarter-final match: Coventry v Leicester.

## LONDON

- 6.15 am TV-am Breakfast Programme. 9.25 The World Figure Skating Championships. 10.30 No 73. 11.45 Happy Days.
- 12.15 pm World of Sport: 12.20 Ice Skating—World Figure Skating Championships: 12.30 World Cup Skating. 12.45 News; 12.50 On The Ball. 1.20 The ITV Six (introduced by Brough Scott and Derek Thompson) from Sandown and Ayr. 3.00 Hockey—England v Scotland from Wembley. 3.45 Half-Time Soccer Round-Up. 4.00 Boxing—Heavyweight Championship of Europe—Stefen Tanstad (Norway, boulder) v Anders Eklund (Sweden) from Copenhagen. 4.45 Results.
- 5.00 News and Sport.
- 5.05 Blockbusters.
- 5.35 Robin of Sherwood.
- 6.40 The Game Game.
- 7.20 All Star Secrets.
- 7.30 T. J. Hooker.
- 8.45 The Price Is Right.
- 9.45 News and Sport.
- 10.00 Aspel and Company.
- 10.50 London News Headlines followed by Auf Wiedersehen, Pet.
- 11.50 Magnum.
- 12.45 am Bizarre.
- 1.15 New From London (Amazulu).
- 2.10 Night Thoughts with Frank Field, M.P.

## CHANNEL 4

- 1.00 am Everybody Here.
- 1.35 The Making Of Britain.
- 1.39 "The Mighty Barnum," starring Elaine Barrie with Virginia Bruce.
- 2.30 "Young And Innocent" starring Derrick O'Conor with Barry Bean and Basil Radford.
- 5.43 Brookside.
- 6.00 The Other Side Of The Tracks.
- 7.00 News Summary followed by Union World.
- 7.30 Credo.
- 8.30 As The Years Pass, As The Days Pass (with English subtitles).
- 10.00 Hill Street Blues.
- 11.00 Janis.
- 5.45 WALS.
- 5.45 am A Question of Economics. 5.45 A Week in Politics. 5.70 News. 6.15 Feature Film: "Conversations of A Nazi Spy," starring Edward G. Robinson, Paul Lukas and

George Sanders. 6.05 Where In The World? 6.30 The Avengers. 7.30 Newswatch. 7.45 Side A Side. 8.15 The Myle. 8.15 Y. M. C. A. Chorus. 10.05 On the Edge. 10.15 Supertramp. 11.15 Chords of Fame. 11.45 Regions as London except

## ANGLIA

11.30 pm Jazz Special: Les McCann, pianist and singer performing in Duke's Palace, New Orleans. 12.20 am At the End of the Day.

## BORDER

5.05 pm Cartoon Alphabet. 11.50 Shelly.

## CENTRAL

11.45 pm Fong Foo. 5.05 pm Cartoon Alphabet. 11.50 Shelly.

## CHANNEL

11.45 pm Puffin's Play (11.50 The Jacksons. 12.14 pm Channel Island Weather Summary. 5.05 Puffin's Play (11.50 The Smurfs. 11.50 Live From London.

## GRAMPIAN

11.50 pm Teachers Only. 12.20 am Refutation of the Moderator of the Free Presbytery of Aberdeen.

## GRANADA

11.45 am The Beverly Hillsbillies. 5.05 pm of Cartoons. 11.50 The Saturday Film: "The Food of the Gods," starring Melvyn Douglas and Pamela Franklin.

## HTV

11.45 am Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons. 12.13 pm HTV News. 5.05 pm of Cartoons. 11.50 Jazz Special: Konnamer part 1 (Konnamer, a band whose name means follow-me).

## HTV Wales—Ae HTV West

11.50 pm of Cartoons. 11.50 pm of Cartoons. 11.50 pm of Cartoons. 11.50 pm of Cartoons.

## SCOTTISH

11.50 pm Late Call. 11.50 pm Paul Simon—Meat and Bones.

## TSW

1.45 am Gue Honeybun's Magic Birthdays. 11.47 The Jacksons. 12.12 pm TSW Regional News. 5.05 News. 5.10 The Studio. 11.30 pm Live From London. 12.45 am Postscript. 12.50 South West Weather.

## TV

11.45 am Birdman and Galaxy Trio. 12.12 pm TVS Weather. 11.50 Jazz Special, featuring the different styles of Gary Burton and the Ahmed Jamal. 12.20 am Company.

## TYNE TEES

11.45 Batman. 12.13 pm North East News. 11.50 The Timeless. 12.45 am Postscript. 12.50 South West Weather.

## YORKSHIRE

11.45 am Regional Weather Forecast. 11.45 Joanne Loves Cheri. 5.05 pm Cartoon Alphabet. 11.50 The Master.

## BBC RADIO 1

11.50 am Dave Lee Travis. 1.00 pm Punk to Present (S). 2.00 Paul McCartney. 3.00 America. 4.00 Saturday Live (S). 5.30 pm Concert (S). 7.30 Phil Kennedy. 8.30-12.00 Dave Pugh.

## BBC RADIO 2

8.05 am David Jacobs (S). 10.00 Sounds of the 80s (S). 11.00 Album Time (S). 1.00 pm The Improvisers. 1.30 Sport on 2: Cricket: Reports from Sydney on the 1st and 2nd Tests. 2.00 pm The Improvisers. 2.30 pm The Improvisers. 3.00 pm The Improvisers. 3.30 pm The Improvisers. 4.00 pm The Improvisers. 4.30 pm The Improvisers. 5.00 pm The Improvisers. 5.30 pm The Improvisers. 6.00 pm The Improvisers. 6.30 pm The Improvisers. 7.00 pm The Improvisers. 7.30 pm The Improvisers. 8.00 pm The Improvisers. 8.30 pm The Improvisers. 9.00 pm The Improvisers. 9.30 pm The Improvisers. 10.00 pm The Improvisers. 10.30 pm The Improvisers. 11.00 pm The Improvisers. 11.30 pm The Improvisers. 12.00 pm The Improvisers.

## BBC RADIO 3

8.05 am David Jacobs (S). 10.00 Sounds of the 80s (S). 11.00 Album Time (S). 1.00 pm The Improvisers. 1.30 Sport on 2: Cricket: Reports from Sydney on the 1st and 2nd Tests. 2.00 pm The Improvisers. 2.30 pm The Improvisers. 3.00 pm The Improvisers. 3.30 pm The Improvisers. 4.00 pm The Improvisers. 4.30 pm The Improvisers. 5.00 pm The Improvisers. 5.30 pm The Improvisers. 6.00 pm The Improvisers. 6.30 pm The Improvisers. 7.00 pm The Improvisers. 7.30 pm The Improvisers. 8.00 pm The Improvisers. 8.30 pm The Improvisers. 9.00 pm The Improvisers. 9.30 pm The Improvisers. 10.00 pm The Improvisers. 10.30 pm The Improvisers. 11.00 pm The Improvisers. 11.30 pm The Improvisers. 12.00 pm The Improvisers.

## BBC RADIO 4

7.00 am News. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.45 In Perspective. 7.50 Down to Earth. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Paper. 8.15 Sport on 4. 8.20 Yesterday. 8.25 Parliament. 8.57 Weather: Travel. 9.00 News. 9.15 Breakfast. 9.50 News. 10.05 The Week in Westminster. Peter Riddell, Political Editor of the Financial Times, reviews the past week. 10.30 Pick of the Week. 11.30 From our Own Correspondent. 12.00 pm News. 12.05 Mooney Box. 12.27 Standings. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? from Bracken. 1.15 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News. 2.15 The News. 2.30 Play (S). 3.00 News. 3.15 The News. 3.30 Play (S). 3.45 News. 3.50 Play (S). 4.00 News. 4.15 The News. 4.30 Play (S). 4.45 News. 4.55 Play (S). 5.00 News. 5.15 The News. 5.30 Play (S). 5.45 News. 5.55 Play (S). 6.00 News. 6.15 The News. 6.30 Play (S). 6.45 News. 6.55 Play (S). 7.00 News. 7.15 The News. 7.30 Play (S). 7.45 News. 7.55 Play (S). 8.00 News. 8.15 The News. 8.30 Play (S). 8.45 News. 8.55 Play (S). 9.00 News. 9.15 The News. 9.30 Play (S). 9.45 News. 9.55 Play (S). 10.00 News. 10.15 The News. 10.30 Play (S). 10.45 News. 10.55 Play (S). 11.00 News. 11.15 The News. 11.30 Play (S). 11.45 News. 11.55 Play (S). 12.00 News. 12.15 The News. 12.30 Play (S). 12.45 News. 12.55 Play (S). 1.00 News. 1.15 The News. 1.30 Play (S). 1.45 News. 1.55 Play (S). 2.00 News. 2.15 The News. 2.30 Play (S). 2.45 News. 2.55 Play (S). 3.00 News. 3.15 The News. 3.30 Play (S). 3.45 News. 3.55 Play (S). 4.00 News. 4.15 The News. 4.30 Play (S). 4.45 News. 4.55 Play (S). 5.00 News. 5.15 The News. 5.30 Play (S). 5.45 News. 5.55 Play (S). 6.00 News. 6.15 The News. 6.30 Play (S). 6.45 News. 6.55 Play (S). 7.00 News. 7.15 The News. 7.30 Play (S). 7.45 News. 7.55 Play (S). 8.00 News. 8.15 The News. 8.30 Play (S). 8.45 News. 8.55 Play (S). 9.00 News. 9.15 The News. 9.30 Play (S). 9.45 News. 9.55 Play (S). 10.00 News. 10.15 The News. 10.30 Play (S). 10.45 News. 10.55 Play (S). 11.00 News. 11.15 The News. 11.30 Play (S). 11.45 News. 11.55 Play (S). 12.00 News. 12.15 The News. 12.30 Play (S). 12.45 News. 12.55 Play (S). 1.00 News. 1.15 The News. 1.30 Play (S). 1.45 News. 1.55 Play (S). 2.00 News. 2.15 The News. 2.30 Play (S). 2.45 News. 2.55 Play (S). 3.00 News. 3.15 The News. 3.30 Play (S). 3.45 News. 3.55 Play (S). 4.00 News. 4.15 The News. 4.30 Play (S). 4.45 News. 4.55 Play (S). 5.00 News. 5.15 The News. 5.30 Play (S). 5.45 News. 5.55 Play (S). 6.00 News. 6.15 The News. 6.30 Play (S). 6.45 News. 6.55 Play (S).



## LEISURE

Tim Dickson reports on preparations for the Open Golf championship  
**A slight interruption at Sandwich**

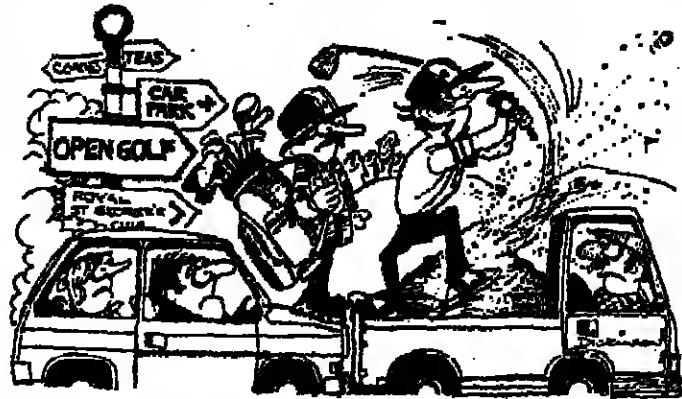
SOME TIME next month vast grandstands will suddenly sprout up to dominate the normally featureless landscape of the Royal St George's Golf Club, at Sandwich in Kent. The construction of 17,000 green seats will for most people be the first visible sign of preparations for this year's Open Golf Championship which will be held on the famous sea-side links between July 18 and 21.

But behind the scenes, months, if not years, of careful thought and planning have already been devoted to ensuring the success of the world's greatest golfing event.

Subtle but significant alterations, for example, have already been made to the course so that the skills of Watson, Ballesteros and the rest can be fully put to the test; details of plans have been discussed with local police, local authorities and local utilities for accommodating the estimated 150,000 spectators expected to descend on the tiny corner of Kent while entertainment facilities have been organised in the "tented village" so that city stockbrokers and West End art dealers can enjoy ample food and drink, as well as an exciting day out with their clients.

The choice of venue for the Open Championship always rests with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, and is made usually three to four years in advance of the event. All revenue from the "tented village" and the "tented village" and the "tented village" goes to the R & A as exclusive organiser while the "host" club, in return for a substantial facility fee agrees to provide a course in suitable condition, accepts the loss of income from green fees before and during the Championship, and puts up with the wear and tear from thousands of tramping feet.

The decision for Sandwich in 1985 was made in late 1981, the year in fact of the last Open Championship at Royal St



George's when the blond Texan Bill Rogers emerged as an unlikely, but highly popular winner.

Once the 1985 venue was known the R & A (as usual) booked as much hotel accommodation as it thought necessary so that the army of competitors, camp followers and tournament officials will be guaranteed somewhere to stay. Sandwich itself is a small town with narrow windy streets but while lacking in the sort of large hotels commonly found close to other courses there is no shortage of rooms within a 15-20 mile radius of the first tee.

A significant cost to the club has been the resurfacing of an old highway linking nearby Deal and Sandwich Bay which until 1981 was unsuitable for motors but which enabled one-third of all cars that year to reach the course.

Poor communications, in fact, explored the long gap between 1949 and 1981 when Sandwich did not play host to an Open — it was only the completion of the Sandwich bypass which finally ended the "lean years" in 1981.

1949, readers may recall, was the famous year when Irishman Harry Bradshaw, unaware that he could have taken a free drop, played his ball "as it layed" out of a broken bottle on the right of

the fifth hole. In the event he only managed to move it a few yards, subsequently ended up level after four rounds with Bobby Locke, and lost to the great man in the next day's play off.

Pare predictions of lengthy jams — unjustified as it turned out — kept some spectators away in 1981. But with club captain Angus Lloyd and Neil Roach, chairman of the club championship committee both confident that such fears were dispelled last time, the organisers are expecting a record attendance for what after all is the only modern Open venue south of Lancashire. Police signposting will start nearly 50 miles away with a helicopter and radio control diverting traffic to the most favourable routes.

First discussions between the R & A and the club about changes to the course took place nearly two and a half years ago. A new tee, for example, has been built to ease crowd control on the fourth hole, the green of the short third (controversially, say some) has been reconstructed to remove two bunkers and incorporate a second tier; and a new tee has been built to lengthen the 399 yard par four tenth. The club says "The players

these days hit the ball vast distances. The idea is that they will now be faced with a shot to the green more like the one envisaged when the course was set out.

Some at Royal St George's inevitably grumble that the championship does little more than disrupt their daily four-some (fourballs wisely are not allowed at any time).

Most people, however, realise that staging a great event like the Open is not only exciting in itself but brings prestige, extra visitors and a healthy influx of new members. The cumulative effect of 1981 and 1985 has certainly been to breathe new life into what some say had been a declining club.

Financially, Royal St George's reckons there will be little, if any, short term gain—the facility fee will be largely eaten up by an unnecessary expense to bring the course and clubhouse up to scratch.

Not every detail, however, can be planned perfectly in advance. The plight of the pound, for example, may force the R & A to increase its total £550,000 prize money, a figure which was announced last October when sterling was in the \$1.20 to \$1.30 range.

Only the top 20 overseas finishers can expect to cover their costs so a bigger kitty may be needed to entice more Americans across the Atlantic.

A special significance, meanwhile, is attached this year to the possibility that two players (or more) will be tied on the same score after four rounds, something which last happened when Tom Watson and Jack Newton ended up level in 1975 at Carnoustie.

For the first time in the history of the Open the winner will not be decided by an 18-hole play off the following day. Those tied at the top will set off for five extra holes of medal (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18) after which sudden death will resolve the deadlock.

**Tiptoe through the taxation maze**

Money and art: A new guide reviewed by Antony Thorncroft

WE READ that the executors of the late Sir Roland Penrose have "sold a painting by de Chirico to the Tate Gallery for £1m in a 'private treaty sale'". That a Renoir has gone to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham "in lieu of tax" and the Duke of Devonshire has established Chatsworth as a "charitable trust", that the British Museum is trying to raise £200,000 to keep a Samuel Palmer water-colour in this country which has been refused an "export licence for five months". As art becomes big business so the Inland Revenue exacts its due.

It was ever so. A hundred years ago the National Gallery received a special Government grant to secure for the country pictures dispersed in the Duke of Hamilton's sale. In 1894 estate duty was formally introduced to tax works of art which were already being sold off by an aristocracy willing under the agricultural depression. Scarcely a century after the UK had become the treasure house of the world, containing the pickings of the Grand Tour and following the collapse of the French nobility, the outflow of works of art had begun—to the new rich, the Americans.

Today there is a comprehensive system of rules and regulations involving the purchase and dispersal of works of art. The full intricacies are known to a few specialists: for most of us, including the owners of valuable goods, confusion reigns. To provide some assistance Sotheby's has just published "An outline of the taxation and exemption of works of art in the UK", and copies can be obtained from 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1.

In 30 pages the booklet races through those mysterious phrases—capital transfer tax;

capital gains tax (a good candidate for Budget revision?); value added tax; exemption; heritage sales; export licence; maintenance funds (also due for a change?); and charitable trusts.

Sotheby's sees the publication as a child's guide, to help to the rich (and the not so rich) and their solicitors.

It is a fair minded publication to come from an auction house because it also includes avenues of disposing of works of art other than the salesroom. It gives the impression, of course, that Sotheby's can be relied upon for the best advice—which might include selling off one or two family heirlooms!

The booklet does not go into detail but here are some thoughts for owners of saleable works of art.

● Any item which sells for less than £3,000 is exempt from Capital Gains tax. A collection of netsuke sold recently at auction for £250,000, but since the vendor paid very little tax.

● If the family treasures are jointly owned by a husband and wife the exemption level rises to £5,000—an often ignored advantage. It is possible that the Budget this month could change capital gains tax, increasing the burden on short-term pickings, but making things easier for those who have seen their unconsidered trifles appreciate greatly in line with the general inflation of works of art.

One second thought: a pair of Georgian candlesticks might be split up to duck the £3,000 barrier, but as a pair the gain in their sale price could outweigh the imposition of tax.

● It is essential to have frequent valuations. In five years the sale price of a collection of works of art could rise threefold, not because of any general appreciation but because a few exceptional items have multiplied greatly in value. Only by frequent valua-



"The uncertainty of the poet" by Giorgio de Chirico, which the Tate has acquired through a private treaty sale from the executors of Sir Roland Penrose, with financial advantages to both sides.

tions can owners make sensible provision against tax. In short, they should regard their collections like a share portfolio, deciding on the pieces they want to keep permanently, and earmarking possible items for sale.

● The maximum rate of capital transfer tax when works of art are passed on in the lifetime of the owner is a relatively low 30 per cent. It might be a good idea to give the family treasures to your heirs now and avoid a massive bill on your death, when the top rate is 60 per cent.

● It is also worth considering, with the rapid rise in value of works of art, taking certain items out of exemption. At the moment if you own important national treasures, and allow the public access to them, such works escape tax.

By taking an important picture out of exemption — for example — you do not have to sell it at once — you may have to pay capital gains tax on its value. But if you then sell it in, say, five years time you could

temporarily visit of Greek Gods and goddesses, volcanoes, lusty windheads, smoky clouds and strong ocean currents, even the fine rigging on sailing ships.

In Sebastian Cabot's elliptical map, Antwerp 1544, engraved on copper in eight sheets, there are conquistadors fighting Indians in Peru, splendid tents of the Great Khan, polar bears, and a large jaguar or cougar. Yet a Shirley observer, the map is strangely inept.

The Mediterranean is much misshapen, the British Isles are very poorly rendered and Scandinavia is little better drawn.

Island, too, is shown as most due north of Scotland.

**Best in port**

VINTAGE PORT prices a Christie's latest wine auction coinciding the recent rise and were generally above estimates.

A single bottle of Graham's 27 went for £120 and a case of Taylor's 35 for £1,400. The 45s range from £1,750 a dozen for Taylor, £1,300 for Graham, £1,050 for Croft and £720 for Ferreira. Among the 35s Taylor's sold for £880 a dozen, Cockburn for £440 and Quinta do Nova for £420.

Noval is celebrated for its nearly unique 31 and a single bottle at Christie's reached £350. It is also famous for its very fine vineyard lines of ungrafted "national" vines, and a single bottle of 47 made £200, a case of the lesser known 62 went for £1,200, and another of the 51 for £520.

Edmund Penning-Roswell

Rugby, tea and sympathy... by John Kitching  
**A strong cup for the Quins**

I THINK we were losing 30-0 when I started to wonder whether we'd have a Good Tea. Our Sunday side, including two over-enthusiastic 16-year-olds, was

Well, the food was delicious: the best sausage in Halifax and ambrosial sandwiches. And since that day ten years ago, I have been a believer in the importance of a Good Tea.

I think the Harlequins players are likely to enjoy their tea at Gloucester tomorrow—perhaps more than the rugby. It's a harsh away draw for the Quins in the quarter-finals of the John Player Special Cup, and, as anyone who knows Kingsholm will tell you, there'll be a warm welcome for them in more ways than one.

Harlequins have enjoyed much improved form in the last few seasons, and progressed to the semi-finals, the cup last year, losing to Bristol. But I think that tomorrow the Gloucester pack in particular will see them off.

The quarter-finals also bring together Sale and Bath, last year's winners, at Brooklands, a Midlands' tussle between

Coventry and Leicester, at Compton Road, and a visit to London Welsh for Waterloo.

John Player has increased sponsorship this year, to £100,000 (an increase of £5,000 on last year) bringing the total provided by Imperial Tobacco since sponsorship began in 1975-76 to over £600,000. Even first-round losers can expect about £800, which for some of the smaller clubs is a great help.

The knock-out cup began in 1972, and was warmly welcomed by many, and frowned on by some, who feared the move would lead to too much need to be bad for The Game. The competition has now been won three times by Leicester and Gloucester (one shared) and twice by Gosforth and Coventry.

So what of the prospects for tomorrow's other matches? It's hard to see Sale, despite their pre-eminence in the north, defeating Bath, who can field such a wealth of talent. John Hall in the Bath back-row is playing better than ever, and behind him are the skills of Horton, Hill and Martin. The tight forwards are formidable, too, with that once-capped barrel of a prop, Chilcott, on

the loose-head.

So it looks as if Bath will have a Good Tea at Sale, as indeed should Waterloo at London Welsh. But I hope the men from the north-west have done their homework on the Welsh front-row — physically one of the smallest in first-class rugby, and technically one of the most efficient. Jones, Bradley and Light have the ability to demolish taller, heavier, scrum-masters.

At Compton Road, Coventry tackle Leicester, the side they beat in the third round last year. Leicester need little introduction. The matches are due to be played on March 23 with the final on April 27 at Twickenham.

Coventry, who last won the knock-out in 1974, might just pip Leicester, but it will be an interesting duel between Steve Brain, the current England hooker, and Peter Wheeler.

The semi-final line-up could be Bath, Waterloo, Coventry and Gloucester. The matches are due to be played on March 23 with the final on April 27 at Twickenham.

P-QR4, P-QR4?

White's dominant knight and rooks provide a clear edge, but B-Q4 is a better defence.

22 NxB, R-K2; 23 PXP, RXP; 24 R-A7, R-K2?

P-B4 should be tried, when White increases the pressure by P-KR4—5.

25 R-Q8 ch, K-N2 (if R-K1; 26 R-R ch, 27 Q-N3 ch and 28 Q-N8); 28 R-K8! Resigns. An elegant cross-pins finishes the game.

POSITION No. 558

BLACK (White)

T. Calafas (Nigeria) v I. Thomas (England), Navag Commonwealth championship, London docklands 1985.

A confusing position to assess: P-B4 is the exchange for a pawn down, but has an attack. What should White play now, and how should the game go?

PROBLEM No. 558

BLACK (White)

White mates in three moves at latest, against any defence (by V. Kopaev). An obscure, ingenious key offers White's massive lead in material.

Solution, JPage 18

**Boundless funds of interest**

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON observed in *Treasure Island* that he was told that there were people who did not care for maps. He found this hard to believe, as the names, the shapes, and the courses of roads and rivers were "an inexhaustible fund of interest for any man with eyes to see or two-penceworth of imagination to understand with."

**COLLECTING**  
JUNE FIELD

And Oxford philosopher and physician Robert Burton demanded in *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621): "What greater pleasure can there be than to view those elaborate maps of Ortelius, Mercator, Hondius etc?"

These three were among the really big names of 16th and 17th century mapping. Their maps recorded the great explorations and the spread of colonisation of the European powers but ornamentation was often as important as geographical content. Some of their work was published in atlases, some went into travel, geography and science books.

Appreciation of old maps as



Wandcut map of the world framed in a jester's cap, c1575, from Rodney W. Shirley's *The Mapping of the World—Early Printed World Maps 1472-1700*

Intrinsic works of art has increased enormously over the last five years, but prices have levelled out considerably since the peak of late 1979 and the early 1980's, when maps were being bought as an alternative investment.

"The hoem was fuelled by people whose sole reason for

buying was investment," says Jonathan Potter, who has a gallery to Grafton Street, W1.

"Now maps are being bought seriously, both as a hobby and a long-term investment."

His new catalogue, *Fine, Decorative and Rare Old Maps* 156, or \$15 overseas, has everything priced. About £22

**Pleasure in the potato patch****GARDENING**  
ARTHUR HELLIER

MANY of the potatoes that are so popular were introduced a great many years ago. Duke of York arrived in 1891. Epicure in 1897, Sharpe's Express in 1901, Majestic in 1912, Doon Star in 1928 and Arran Pilot in 1930. There is nothing wrong with age provided vigour has been maintained but with potatoes, which are mainly propagated by tubers, that is not always easy because virus diseases are readily passed on from one generation to another, so gradually weakening the whole stock.

There are methods of overcoming this. One very good early potato, Foremost, was grown for seven years from cuttings as a result of which it is now much healthier and more prolific. The old salad potato, Pink Fir Apple, introduced in 1850, is another that has undergone a special selection process to improve its constitution and many gardeners who appreciate

add that when I have grown this variety in Sussex it has never tasted as it does when grown to Jersey and friends have had similar experiences in other countries. I do not know what makes the difference but I think it must be connected with soil or climate or maybe a combination of both.

Last year I grew Pendland Javelin which is a relative youngster, as it was not introduced until 1962. It performed well in a dry season (but because my soil is heavy it did not dry out so badly as some) and I was able to go on digging from midsummer until October.

Javelin is listed as a late first early, which seems a contradiction in terms, but it does gain size quickly and then go on getting heavier more slowly so that it pays to dig it over a long period. It is a nice potato to use in the kitchen, smooth, white-fleshed and lacking in

eyes, but I do not rate its flavour highly.

This year I am trying Marfona, thanks to an early release from Marshalls of Wisbech, who will be introducing it next year.

Marfona is a large, white, kidney-shaped potato that looks attractive, but I shall need to back it up with an early variety to give me my June-July crop. Maybe I will try Wilja, another Dutch variety of which I have heard excellent reports. It is another kidney potato but with golden brown, somewhat netted skin, and pale yellow flesh. It is said to be equally suitable for steaming, boiling, roasting, chipping and baking.

Or I may pick on Maris Bard, which was raised at the Plant Breeding Institute in Cambridge. It is even earlier than Home Guard, oval with shallow eyes and very pale cream flesh and has an enviable reputation for production. It is very susceptible to potato blight, but this does not usually become a serious threat until late July, it should be possible to get the

whole crop dug before there is any need to spray protectively.

Newcomers very likely to be found in shops and garden centres, but available from specialists such as Marshalls, Phoenix Distributors, 15 Great George Street, Bristol and Farm Seeds (Potatoes) Ltd, Downham Market, Norfolk are Romano, Croft, Drayton and Dunluce.

One of the parents of Romano was the very popular late potato Désirée. Both are skinned but Romano is ready for digging a little earlier. It was produced at the Scottish Plant Breeding Station and is a white skinned early maincrop potato which stores exceptionally well.

Drayton looks like King Edward but can be dug earlier and is said to be more reliable. Dunluce is very early and a good potato to grow in a frame or in the greenhouse, either in a bed of soil or in pots.

It will be seen that the pleasures of one-up-manship are to be found even in the seemingly prosaic potato patch.

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# FINANCIAL TIMES

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Saturday March 9 1985

## Now the real fight begins

MR BERNARD CORNFELD, when he was head of Investors Overseas Services, used to ask job applicants for his selling force one simple question: "Do you sincerely want to be rich?" Now Mr Cornfeld was not a reputable businessman, as most readers will remember, IOS subsequently collapsed in a major scandal. He was no fool, though, and he knew that most people, faced with the real choice—the work, the risks, and in his enterprise the easily-shed conscience required to get rich, would have to answer "No." Comfortable, yes; rich—well, not if it means discomfort.

And what, you may be wondering, has this got to do with the price of coal? Quite a lot, as we may discover in the months to come. Mr Ian MacGregor has now won the Government's fight—a power struggle that began 12 years ago and seemed lost by Mr Edward Heath in 1974.

### Forget solidarity

This, however, merely clears the ground for the battle Mr MacGregor wants to fight—if it can be done peacefully. For the questions he wants to pose. Do the miners sincerely want to be rich? He has a plan for a decentralised industry, rewarding performance, in which face workers at the potentially productive pits could within a short time be earning not an increase to keep up with inflation, or the sort of 30 per cent rise the railwaymen have now claimed (showing again that one battle does not win a war), but two or three times their present wage—the sort of money a finance director in a medium-sized company would grab for.

But to get it they would have to forget about national solidarity, about equal treatment for the retired face workers on the surface, about preserving mining jobs and communities where the seams are running out.

Now this is exactly the kind of revolution, leading to high productivity and high pay, that Mrs Margaret Thatcher has somewhere at the back of her mind, and sometimes nearer the front. It can be done in some companies in this country, as, for example, the Jaguar experience has shown. It can be done in whole communities: the authorities in Singapore use wage pressure to make entrepreneurs up to the mark, and squeeze out low-productivity work. But it is a very difficult thing to do in a large community with bad habits, and the Government, too, is sometimes tempted to opt for the comfortable Irish remark: you can't get there from here. For one thing, rising efficiency—especially when

industry has been drastically overmanned—creates large-scale unemployment to start with, and the time-scale is long; so the Government is driven to stress the importance of low-paid jobs until the high-paid opportunities come along. Unfortunately, "Do you sincerely want to be poor?" is a distinctly uninspiring question, so the Government loses political momentum.

Revolutions are not made by Governments which follow rather than lead public opinion—and especially not British public opinion. The British have a strong prejudice in favour of the peaceful life. To expand a little on a thought from Mr Michael Frayn, they will defend the right to withdraw your labour, and no doubt the right to manage, too; but they draw the line at strikes. It is not surprising, then, that ministers offered several opportunities for a fudge during the strike.

### Maximum stimulus

This frustration no doubt explains why Mrs Thatcher's admiration for what the U.S. has achieved—and the popularity it has won for the President—is now so much louder than her criticisms of the means used to achieve it. Until only a few weeks ago, it could have been expected that Mr Nigel Lawson would have exploited every hopeful projection and every form of window-dressing to apply the maximum supply-side stimulus—that is, tax cuts, not spending—in his coming Budget to get the momentum restarted.

Even now, with the dollar a little wobbly rather than a financial juggernaut, he might recover some of this nerve and must surely wish too that he had nipped the latest possible day in April.

The odds remain long, though, that he will be cautious, hoping that sterling depreciation will achieve what he dare not assist; and the public message will be familiar, but depressing. The Government may already be concluding that the host's electorate does not sincerely wish to go to war; but he is left to foreigners. What Mr Lawson feels able to do in 10 days, he should at least say enough to convince us that the Government does not think the public is right to be so passive.

LIKE A giant supertanker negotiating a particularly delicate turn, the U.S. property and casualty insurance industry is now trying to pull away from the standstill that has been threatening disaster for the past two years.

This is of vital significance for insurers in the UK, where three famous names this week reported their worst results for decades. General Accident and Royal Insurance just managed to scrape together pre-tax profits of £3.9m and £11.2m respectively. But Commercial Union turned in a whopping £72.8m pre-tax loss.

The root of the problem in each case is the United States where all three companies are greatly exposed.

But if the experience of domestic U.S. insurers is anything to go by, there may be a glimmer of hope on the horizon. There is evidence, particularly in the form of higher prices, that the big U.S. insurers may have changed direction just in time to avert a major wreck. But there is virtual unanimity that they still face a further 12-month haul before they move back into anything like healthy profits.

Since 1980, the composite insurance sector has been turning up steadily larger underwriting losses, culminating last year in its worst results since the infamous San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

According to Wall Street estimates, the industry was operating on such unfavourable terms in 1984, that the big insurers were paying out \$1.17 in claims and expenses for each dollar they took in. Indeed in some sectors, such as medical malpractice, the companies were having to spend almost \$1.60 for each dollar of premium income.

Even worse, however, was that for the first time in

### Problems compounded by weather-related series of disasters

decades, investment income failed to make up for the losses on underwriting. As a result the insurers were left with an overall operating loss of about \$4bn. At the net profit level the industry just about managed to break even—but only after asset sales and what Wall Street describes as some "creative accounting."

The roots of the industry's problems can be traced back to a combination of price deregulation and excess capacity. Starting in the late-1970s, these two factors came together to produce the fiercest pricing war the U.S. insurers have seen. This forced down premium rates, id around 40 per cent below the level which is considered by the sector's supervising authorities as a reasonable level to ensure its underlying health.

The problem was compounded by an exceptional series of weather-related disasters, and a sea change in the legal environment. Over the last few years, insurance companies have been faced with rapidly escalating settlement costs in a wide variety of cases: invading environmental and occupational health hazards (notably asbestos claims).

It was not until the middle of last year that the industry began to take the first steps to put its house in order. By that

### Record insurance losses

## At last, the U.S. tide may be turning

Terry Dodsworth and Paul Taylor in New York look at the industry's dramatic problems

time, the insurers had been shaken by the fact that two of the major composite companies, Fireman's Fund and The Hartford, had been forced to bolster reserves and thus report yawning losses.

As the effects of these shock measures rippled through the sector, the insurers began to push up prices—and see them stick for the first time.

Mr Jay Brown, Fireman's Fund chief financial officer and executive vice-president, says companies looked at their ratios and saw that they had deteriorated well beyond anything they had experienced in the past. "All of a sudden," he adds, "prices took off like a rocket."

In some commercial lines, policy holders are now facing a second round of price increases that will have lifted their

premiums by as much as 40 to 50 per cent since the start of last year. The price rises have been most dramatic in those areas like general liability insurance and medical malpractice where the industry has been particularly badly hit.

"We are going to have to have another round of price increases before we see the financial results we think are adequate," says Mr Caleb Fowler, chief financial officer of Cigna.

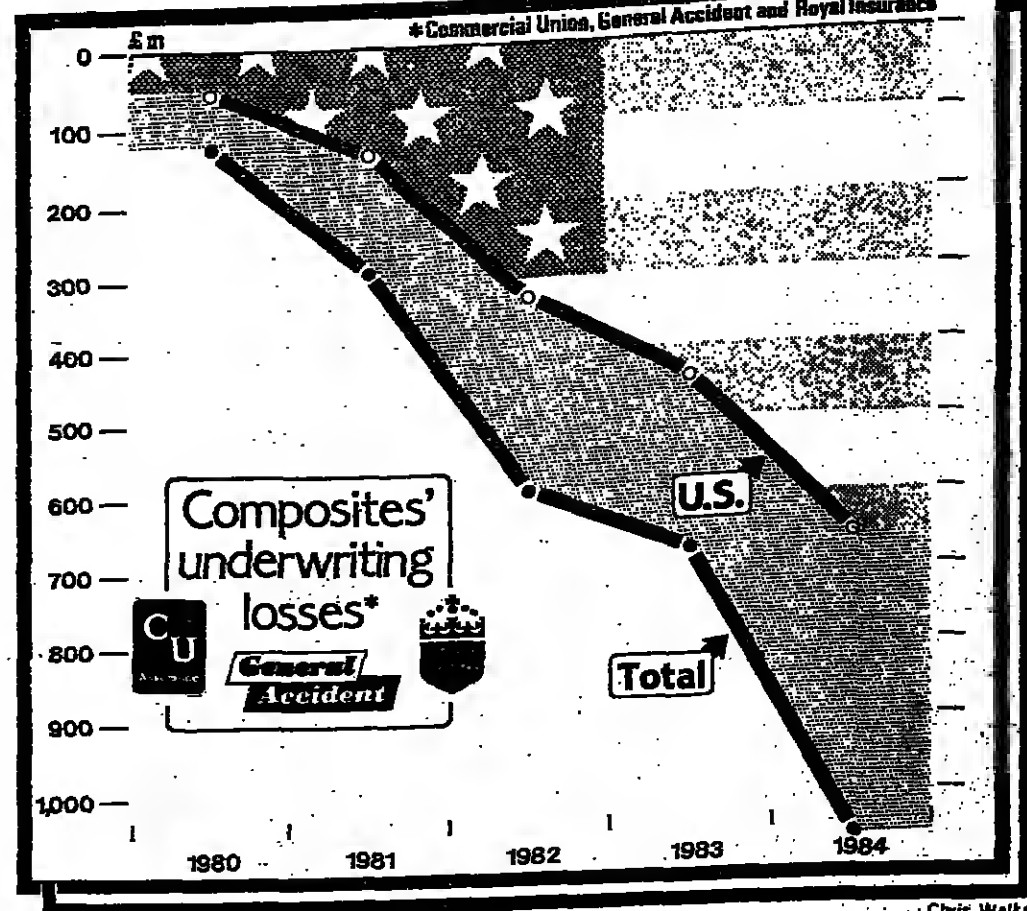
Several factors have underpinned this upward price momentum. The first was a sharp increase last year in the cost of reinsurance, which all the composite insurers use, to lay off some of their larger risks.

Second, the profit squeeze began to force through the capacity reductions which

insurers normally anticipate at the bottom of the underwriting cycle.

One of the unusual features of the insurance crisis of the past few years has been the abnormally high level of real interest rates. Healthy portfolio profits have encouraged players to stay in the market long after they would normally have disappeared. Last year the swing finally caught up with them. A record 15 companies sank into insolvency, while companies were forced to cut capacity in all areas—many of them withdrawing from certain lines entirely.

Indeed, senior industry officials have now begun to talk of a capacity shortage. Mr Daniel McNamara, president of the Insurance Services Office, says that the capacity shortage could be "severe even under



Chris Walker

## WHY THE UK MARKET ALSO TURNED SOUR

ATTENTION THIS week has been focused on the bloodbath in the U.S. insurance market—but conditions elsewhere have also been getting rougher.

The UK, which used to be a haven of stability, has deteriorated fast in recent years.

Commercial Union lost £91.6m in its domestic market last year—more than double the previous year's losses.

Capacity has expanded rapidly in the UK as a result of increasing international competition. British companies have reacted vigorously to defend their position and the competition has been exacerbated by the country's poor economic performance.

Premium rates for commercial business have been slashed as companies endeavoured to retain business. Mr Tom Roberts, General Accident's general manager for the UK, says that certain rates were cut by as much as 30 per cent.

sonal insurance market as domestic companies, unable to expand in the commercial sector, looked for other opportunities.

On top of these competitive pressures, UK insurers have had to contend with bad weather, a sharp increase in crime rates. Both factors have an adverse impact on the underwriting account. Last winter's severe weather pushed the cost of property claims on the UK insurance companies up by £175m.

As if that was not bad enough, subsidence also became a major problem. Mr Roberts states that it now accounts for 12 per cent of the cost rating for buildings insurance.

The rapid escalation of burglaries has given insurance companies major headaches on their claims.

For some years high interest rates in the UK enabled insurers to offset underwriting losses with rising investment income, so that UK business overall still managed to show a profit. But last year was the year of

reckoning. Faced with mounting underwriting losses, insurers began to edge their rates higher.

Mr Alan Horsfield, Royal's chief executive, says modestly: "We saw some price firming on commercial lines in 1984." However, these increases averaging around 10 per cent—have tended to be confined to the poorer risks.

The premium recovery in commercial lines is only just starting in the UK "aided by a very tough reinsurance negotiating season" according to Mr Horsfield.

On the personal side, insurance companies like the CU made swinging increases in rates for contents insurance last autumn in reaction to rising thefts. London and other inner cities saw rates doubled and trebled.

On building rates, companies facing the competitive pressure from building societies, are jobbing rates up from 15p to 16p per £100 sum insured. Mr Cecil Harris, CU's chief ex-

ecutive admits "the increase is inadequate, but this is a nationally rated class of business."

Motor insurance remains as competitive as ever. GA, CU and the Royal have all been making premium increases—though GA has paid the price by seeing its portfolio shrink significantly over the past two years. Any recovery in the motor account last year was stopped in its tracks by a rise in claim numbers in the autumn.

This should be a less disastrous year for UK insurers, if only because the winter has been less severe than the last one.

But once a recovery gets under way, companies will again start fighting to claw back market share. An industry which used to make comfortable profits in a cartel-like marketplace is having to face up to the fact that competition is here to stay.

Eric Short

the fear of losing volume and market share. With the buoyant economy now generating new business and available insurance capacity in decline, it has been much easier for chief executives to insist on searching out quality rather than quantity.

In a surprising number of the very large companies, including Aetna, Travelers,

### The buoyant economy is now generating new business

Crum & Forster and Fireman's fund, this fresh drive for profitable business has been accelerated by an influx of new senior managers.

Wall Street has been signalling the changed profit prospects of the industry for the past six months. First Boston says that since the middle of November, the market price of 16 of the leading U.S. insurance stocks has gone up by an average of 16 per cent against a 7.5 per cent gain in the S and P 400 index.

But virtually no one in the industry believes that it will be plain sailing from now on. Mr DeRoy Thomas, chairman and chief executive of the Hartford, says the recovery will be patchy, although the prospects "are a lot more rosy than for some time."

Others like Jay Brown insist that the industry still does not recognise the severity of its problems. He believes operating losses in 1985 will actually prove to be higher than last year, that there will be more insolvencies and that reserves remain inadequate.

At best, most analysts are warning that it could be 1986 before the property-casualty sector begins to show any real profit improvement.

### Some causes of unemployment

From Mr P. Brooks

Sir.—Mr A. Scott (February 28) is correct in his view that high wages do not produce high levels of inflation. One need only look at the whole spectrum of national economies in the world to verify this fact. High unit labour costs, however, do produce high inflation and ultimately high unemployment. Mr Scott is wrong to vilify management who attempt to achieve satisfactory levels of unit labour costs by means of incentive schemes if they have tried other means and failed. There is surely nothing wrong in paying the highly productive more than the moderately productive. As has so often been said, unemployment is fuelled by the act of pricing oneself out of a job, not through high wages but through demanding payment too high for the level of productivity achieved. This applies at all levels in industry and commerce.

P. K. Brooks

61, Kings Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

### Call options caution

From Mr K. Tunstall

Sir.—May I add caution to Clive Wolman's stratagem (March 2) of writing call options and simultaneously buying put options to protect a BT holding retained for the perks? A surge in the BT share price might result in the call options being exercised against the writer. This could force an early sale of the shares with forfeiture of the attaching perks, the very event the stratagem was designed to prevent. The minimum unit that can be traded is one contract representing options on 1,000 of the underlying shares. It would not therefore be possible, as suggested in the article, for a holder of only 400 FT to write a call option, unless

risk on the extra 600 shares, a risk akin to that of a bear sale. In my view, the simplest protection for the small BT holder is the purchase alone of a traded put contract.

### Diesel engine economy

From Mr D. Broome

Sir.—If Mr Davies (March 2) had told us more about the current economics of refining light and heavy fuels instead of making generalised statements about the relative efficiencies of diesel and petrol engines, we might have been able to understand, if not sympathise with, the apparent ripoff by the oil companies in equating the prices of Derr and petrol. Anybody who has studied the indicator diagrams of compression and spark ignition engines will know that the diesel cycle offers 30-40 per cent more potential efficiency in terms of useful kWh per calorie. Indeed, the efficiency of a petrol engine is largely governed by its compression ratio, which is limited by the detonation point. No piston engine uses petrol except where the limitations of the diesel makes such profligacy essential.

My Peugeot 305 1800 cc Estate can be compared with the identical petrol version at 1300 cc as follows (I give both official figures and carefully monitored figures from mixed usage). The table shows percentage tables of savings both per gallon and per kilo using Mr Davies' density figures. If we priced by weight, the savings would still be substantial, but I suspect that this is not the sole cost at the refinery!

Comparison of diesel and petrol Peugeot 305 Estate	
Petrol Diesel	1.10 1.00
Constant 55 mph	45.9 61.4 25.9 22.0
Constant 70 mph	39.3 43.5 23.5 20.5
Urban cycle	30.7 44.8 31.8 27.0
Recorded use	35.0 48.0 27.0 23.5

## Letters to the Editor

The official urban figures flatter the petrol engine as they include accelerations and gear changing not necessarily used on a diesel—I get much better figures than these in town. Diesels are also not as sensitive to load—I returned an overall mileage per gallon of 46 on a 3,000-mile trip to Portugal with four up and a roof rack full of kit.

Mr Davies suggests that there is further development potential in the petrol engine. In fact, the "stretch" for small high speed diesels is just beginning, with the first direct injection engines coming to the market, and the possibility of more sophisticated electronic controls to replace the largely mechanical systems currently in use. The world cannot afford to waste precious calories in pondering to a style of driving rather than efficient transport.

One need not take too seriously Mr Davies' dire warnings about environmental restrictions—smaller diesels are not either noisy or smoky, and there is a way to go yet in improvement.

One hopes that the Chancellor will respond to the attempt by oil companies to rig the market by substantially increasing the relative weight of taxation on petrol.

Derek Broome

Fotters End, Meers Ashby, Northampton.

Capital gains tax

From Mr M. Montgomery

Sir.—Clive Wolman's article

reference to the original gains tax introduced in 1962 without describing its provisions, which were in essence that any profit on shares and second properties taken within six and 24 months respectively of purchase should be assessed as income. It was not only eminently fair, but also (and perhaps more to the point) manifestly straightforward both to compute and to collect.

As one who spent nine years establishing with the Inland Revenue the liability under the present tax arising from the sale of a holding in a private company, I speak with some insight into the volume of work entailed in its administration. When that devoted to its evasion is also taken into account, it must surely rank as one of the most inept and counter-productive taxes ever devised.

I cannot recall that any serious criticism was made of the original tax on grounds either of inequity or impracticability. If its successor is to be reformed rather than abolished, is there any good reason why the former should not simply be restored in its place?

M. S. J. Montgomery, Ricermead House, Lechlade, Glos.

### Return to Wengen

From Messrs. H. and C. Brasher

Sir.—Those of us who know the DHO (Downhill Only Club) would hardly recognise it from

Saturday when he describes it as the DHO. The DHO may be a generic organisation, but the DHO is a club which caters for the full spectrum of British skiers—from youngsters learning to race under the guidance of, among others, Davina Galica, the only British skier to get into the top six in any alpine event to any winter Olympic Games since the war (and she was a member of the DHO at the time) to those who want to escape from the overcrowded pistes into the mountains in which the sport is based.

And as for Wengen: those of us who have tried the modern French resorts which, alas, so often resemble airport buildings, have returned to Wengen after a long absence to find that inflation in Switzerland has been so controlled that prices for the English are now as reasonable as anywhere in the Alps—and the variety of skiing is unsurpassed. Add to that a traditional and rare free village, and it is no wonder that Thomson shipped a clutch of journalists, including AS, to discover its attractions—an attractions that bring back the young and fast as well as the old and declining to a resort which has now become our favourite.

Hugh Brasher (aged 20)

Christopher Brasher (aged 56), Navigator's House, River Lane, Richmond, Surrey.

### Tax-effective investments

From Mr J. Hills

Sir.—It may be worth clarifying two aspects of industrial building investment (see Clive Wolman's interesting article on tax-effective investments of February 23).

It is not quite correct to say that the small industrial workshop scheme will be withdrawn on March 26. An investor who purchases an unused building which was constructed before that date will continue to

allowance. Furthermore, the initial allowance will be available for some time yet for properties located in enterprise zones. There is no restriction on the size of the properties located in such areas, and they may in some cases offer better prospects of capital growth than very small industrial units (up to 1,250 sq ft).

Mr Wolman also mentions the possibility of an investor realising the major part of his investment by granting a long lease out of his investment. It is true that there is a precedent for this (R. A. Mallico Ltd v Woods) but this case was heard some years ago, before the Courts embarked on their crusade against tax avoidance arrangements (see IRC v Ramsay Ltd and Furness v Dawson). Also, if the Inland Revenue could demonstrate that this had been planned from the very outset, it is possible that investors could be denied the benefit of the industrial buildings allowances altogether. These allowances are available for capital investments whereas if an individual purchases an industrial building with the intention of realising almost all of his investment at the earliest possible opportunity, it is arguable that the purchase of the building is revenue expenditure on which no allowances are due.

J. Hills

Fonnell Kerr Forster, 78 Holton Garden, ECI

Illogical and unfair

From Mr R. Orr

Sir.—I read with interest your correspondent Mr Wolman's article in last Saturday's FT. Can anyone explain to me why it is that if a man and a woman live together they receive two CGT allowances, but if they are married their entitlement is one allowance? It seems illogical as well as grossly unfair.

R. Gavin Orr

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## WORLDWIDE TELEVISION

## An evening with the satellite

By Raymond Snoddy

YOU WILL never hear Mike Stone say: "There's nothing on television tonight."

In the comfort of his farmhouse on the outskirts of Bristol he can switch on the Ghorizont satellite to Ehet, a religious channel beamed from Norway, or take a look at a football match in Brazil.

When relations with Libya were tense he took a look at Libyan television — an invigorating experience — and monitored Argentine television during the Falklands war.

Mr Stone estimates he has seen in all about 30 channels of television using his 1.4m and 2.4m satellite dishes in his garden.

Mr Stone is not a television freak. He is a director of a tiny company, Satellite Technology Systems, hoping to take advantage of what he believes is the inevitable spread of a new freedom and a new market.

This week it emerged that Ministers in Britain are on the verge of liberalising the regulations which prevent all but a few telecommunications organisations such as British Telecom and Mercury, cable operators and researchers to put up satellite receiving equipment.

Stone believes that by the end of 1987 there could be as many as 60 channels of television being delivered by satellite in Europe and that the European market for the dish aerials and electronics to receive the pictures from space could be as high as £150m to £200m.

Mr Stone's company has only produced a handful of antennas for customers such as Bristol Polytechnic. But it is trying to raise equity finance of around £300,000 to try to tackle the European market.

The UK Government's plans include allowing individuals and businesses such as hotels and public houses to bring in the television signals from space subject to minimum standards on interference and planning regulations.

It will also liberalise SMATV (satellite master antenna television) — a dish delivering programmes to small existing cable networks or blocks of flats. The Government will, however, only allow SMATV to be developed in areas where no multi-channel cable franchise has been awarded.

The main reason for the change is to boost the market for the 15 channels of cable television programmes which have been set up in the past



Mr Stone at his Bristol home.

year. The Government has accepted that if the programme providers, who have invested in channels of films, sport, pop music, children's programmes and general entertainment, do not have a business, all hopes of a cable revolution would be dead.

It has also accepted that satellites recognise no frontiers and that you cannot ask policemen to look for satellite dishes among the hydrangeas.

Despite doubt over its legality, a market of more than 500,000 dishes grew up in the U.S. before the Federal Communications Commission declared the practice legal.

A degree of liberalisation has already been introduced in France and is being considered in West Germany. Indeed, attempts to prevent EEC citizens receiving satellite broadcasts might be against the freedom of information provisions in the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Christopher Goodall, a communications consultant, has been working on SMATV for Thorn EMI, the largest individual UK provider of new programmes delivered by satellite.

He believes the UK market for SMATV will be worth £50m a year by 1987. About £20m of that will come from extra revenue for the programme providers, £15m for the instal-

lation and repair of equipment and another £15m for the equipment itself. Mr Goodall believes his figures are conservative.

But what will people see and how much will it cost?

A satellite dish of between 1.2 to 1.5m pointing at the European Communications Satellite (ECS) will soon be delivering ten channels — although some have their signals scrambled so that they can only be received on cable television networks.

They are:

- Sky, the advertising based general entertainment channel which this week became available in its 3 millionth home across Europe;
- TV5 from France, a joint effort by the Francophone countries, which is strong on arts and culture;
- Sat-1 and 3Sat from Germany, offering German language general entertainment and cultural programmes;
- Teleclub of Switzerland, a film channel;
- RAI, Italy's national channel;
- The European Broadcasting Union's pan European channel which is due to start in September;
- Music Box, the pop music channel from the UK;
- Filmmet, a film channel involving Dutch channels;

- A Luxembourg channel. Realign your dish — this can be done in 10 minutes with practice says the experts — and IntelSat 3 will bring you four channels from the UK:
- Children's Channel;
- Premiere, the subscription film channel;
- TEN — The Movie Channel and Screen Sport.

The liberalisation of the rules on individual dishes will cause copyright and subscription collection problems. Film channel operators will probably have to scramble the signal to stop viewers simply erecting a dish and "pirating" the entertainment.

Another possibility would be some sort of fee collection when the receiving equipment is sold.

Equipment companies are already viewing the new market with keen interest. Satellite TV Antenna Systems of Staines, Middlesex, believe their business could quadruple this year.

Mr Peter Gray, managing director, says under the present restrictive regulations turnover would probably be about £500,000 this year. Liberalisation could lift that to £2m.

Costs for satellites receiving equipment range from £1,500 to £2,500 in the 1.2-1.5m range. But the price could quite rapidly come down in volume production.

NEC Business Systems (Europe) is already selling the electronics for receiving equipment. Liberalisation could lead to mass production of systems in volume.

Space Communications (Sat-Tel) of Northampton says it is the largest British manufacturer and has already sold more than 200 systems.

"We are producing at the rate of 60 a month," Robin Crossley, Sat-Tel's technical sales manager, said yesterday.

The company has raised more than £500,000 from investors in industry and Alta-Berkley. Turnover this year, he believes will top £2m.

"We don't need to wait for the BBC to pontificate on whether they are going to spend millions on DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite). Satellite television and multi-channel reception are here now and people will go for it and the market will drive prices down," Mr Crossley said.

"In five or six years time, it will be as normal for people to have a small satellite dish as to have a video recorder," he added.

SIR KENNETH DURHAM, chairman of the British end of Anglo-Dutch Unilever, is the kind of earthy Northerner who delights in calling a spade a spade or a human stomach a gut.

"Just think of the amount of gut there is out there for metabolising food," he says in a strong Lancashire accent, winking enthusiastically about the group's long-term sales prospects in the developing world. "It's huge."

This week, he has had a more immediate reason for enthusiasm. Unilever, one of the world's largest businesses, with a turnover of £16bn and 500 operating companies, announced 1984 pre-tax profits up 20 per cent on 1983, pleasantly surprising the City.

The figures were seen as evidence that the tougher management style at the group, and its new emphasis on its core businesses — such as foods, detergents and personal products — is producing results.

Much of the credit for this will be shared by Sir Kenneth and his two colleagues on Unilever's unique three-man top executive — the innocuously named but extremely powerful "special committee." And 60-year-old Sir Kenneth, by virtue of being the longest serving committee member, is something of a first among equals.

His personality certainly mirrors Unilever's attempt to change its image from that of a rather dull, stodgy, amorphous giant, the nearest thing British commerce has to a civil service.

He is short, stocky man whose grey hair, trim grey moustache and gold rimmed spectacles give him something of the air of a genial family doctor. That impression changes immediately he opens his mouth: he is a tough, somewhat peppery man with a keen sense of wit, and he does not suffer fools gladly.

Sir Kenneth's background, and his path to the top, say much about the qualities needed to run a company as large as a small nation state, which is having to adapt to a much harsher business environment: many of its most important markets are highly mature and it faces a long slog of major rivals such as Procter and Gamble of the U.S.

A wartime bomber pilot, he trained as a nuclear physicist and joined Unilever in 1950 as a researcher in its Port Sunlight laboratory. Spotted as a high flier, he leapt numerous grades and by the age of 41 was head of the group's whole research effort, responsible for administering huge budgets.

He might still have been there today, but for a restless and a belief that "research is a young man's job." He requested a transfer to an industrial business and in 1970 was thrown in at the deep end, given the job of rationalising

Sir Kenneth  
Durham  
of Unilever

## A blunt and sharp leader

By Martin Dickson



Sir Kenneth: calls a spade a spade

the troubled UK animal feeds group.

His success there led directly to a position on the Unilever board in 1974, first as regional director for UK companies and later for meat products. Four years later came the summons to join the troika.

The special committee, whose deliberations are quietly known as "sitting together," consists of the chairman of the British and Dutch parent companies, plus a third person who will normally succeed one of the chairmen on retirement.

Sir Kenneth's colleagues both come from a marketing background: Mr Floris Maljers, the 51-year-old chairman of the Dutch company, has a reputation as an extremely tough operator who restructured the group's vital European edible oils division; Mr Michael Angus, the London company's vice-chairman, won his spurs turning round Lever Brothers operation in the U.S.

The special committee might seem an executive instrument custom-designed to produce the kind of stodgy compromise Unilever cannot afford.

Sir Kenneth says this is not so. For one thing, the group has a system of decentralisation that allows subsidiaries to react quickly, as they must in sensitive consumer products markets.

As for longer-term strategy, the committee system is seen as a good means of balancing the need for change with the necessity for continuity. "You have to be very careful about changing the culture," says Sir Kenneth.

Committee decisions have to be unanimous. "There are differences, of course, and they are expressed strongly to get to the heart of the matter. Then we speak with one voice. It's a very powerful force, three guys saying the same thing in different parts of the world."

The key messages going out now are fourfold. First, there is a concentration on the businesses Unilever knows and does best, shedding those companies that do not fit (12 have been sold in the past 12 months) and buying new ones that do, such as Brooke Bond, the tea company bought last year in a hotly contested takeover battle.

Second, since most of the company's Western markets are mature, knocking the competition is vitally dependent on a combination of strong research and development and a powerful marketing effort. Unilever, for example, is shaping up for a major battle this year with Procter and Gamble in the U.S. fabric softener market.

Third, there is a drive to compensate for the maturity of Western markets by winning new business in the Third World, with the booming economies of south east Asia a major target at present.

As Sir Kenneth explains: "If you double the discretionary income of a German, he's not going to spend it on soap. But an Indonesian might — and there are 120m people out there."

Fourth, there is a much greater emphasis on more forceful, intellectually able and more versatile management. Right down the line. "A manager's

eclectic ability has got to be high," says Sir Kenneth. "You're in, say, south-east Asia, you've got to keep a lot of balls in the air, what with interest, exchange rates, and competition."

On his own estimation, qualities that have taken Kenneth to the top are the analytical powers needed to cut through inessentialities, still leave time over the rest of socialising and good work required of a Unilever chairman; the stamina to cope with the 24-hour nature of the job; an ability to take decisions not worry about them: "I don't lie awake at night."

When he does find time to relax he plays golf, voraciously — mostly about politics and military history — and enjoys the company of his wife, whom he has known since the age of 16.

His weaknesses include a greed of intolerance, and an enthusiasm for developing most able of his managers in a way which perhaps neglects more run-of-the-mill executives. Some managers also suggest that he can get an idea in his head and stick to it too long.

Sir Kenneth — he knighted in the last New Year Honours List — has two years go to Unilever, where the firm's age is 62. But that does not mean he will be stopping work: "I couldn't just around for more than a day," he says, glancing at his watch as he prepares to usher out of his office and press to his next appointment.

## Weekend Brief

## Knights joust over subsidies

SIR WILLIAM REES-MOGG, chairman of the Arts Council (also governor of the BBC, antiquarian bookseller and editor of *The Times*) is not a flappable man. He takes a rational, serious, informed view of the world. He probably would have reached a very high rank in the Civil Service.

As things worked out, he is having an enjoyable time coping with the bruised egos and aesthetic susceptibilities of the arts world, most notably crossing swords with the National Theatre's Sir Peter Hall, his second-most important client.

After many years in which it took the part of the quiet, industrious retainer, the National Theatre suddenly has started to play up. It has seen its main rival, the Royal Shakespeare Company, receive much larger increases in subsidy by crying "crisis," and this year, faced with a rise in subsidy of less than 2 per cent, Sir Peter has rushed to the barricades on behalf of the National and perhaps in recognition of the fact that an Arts Council grant for 1985-86 of £6.7m is not exactly peanuts.

In short, Sir Peter is warning the Government of plunging the arts, the glory of the nation, into despair and the country to try to change Council policy.

Sir William's reaction is both to regret Sir Peter's impassioned rhetoric and to maintain that his own more restrained approach is better for the long-term funding of the arts. Sir William has difficult job. On the one hand, he is in



Sir William Rees-Mogg... restrained approach

favour of smaller Government spending, of a rolling back of the state. On the other, he thinks the arts are a special case, and should receive favours from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

So he will point to a 20 per cent real increase in arts funding under the present Government and suggest that, if for this year there is a 2.5 per cent cut in real terms, any well-run arts company ought to be able to trim its spending in line. At the same time, he will argue, in the Arts Council Lecture, to be delivered on Monday, that the Government makes money from the arts over and above their vital role as an attraction for 12m overseas tourists.

Briefly, Sir William's case runs thus: last year, the Government gave the Arts Council £100m for subsidies. This sum is £250m of turnover (coming from local authorities, private funding, box office). Around £200m of the total went on salaries, providing about 25,000 jobs, which means £80m national insurance contributions. The £100m from the box office added £15m in VAT, so the Exchequer derived £75m from the arts.

Without priming from the Council, 20,000 jobs in the arts would probably disappear, costing £50m in extra welfare benefits. So the Public Sector

Borrowing Requirement would be £25m higher if the Arts Council received no grant. In addition, there is the role of the arts in attracting tourist spending of £3,000m and, of equal importance, the contribution of the arts to the wellbeing not only of national pride, but also to individual development.

Sir William believes such arguments make more impression on the Government than the bleatings of arts administrators, faced with a minor cut in subsidy and lacking any popular support. His critics will reply that the Government does not seem to be responding to his strategy in the only way that matters — with extra money.

Sir William likes to see his posture as radical. With Luke Rittner, the council's secretary-general, he is switching available resources away from London and into the provinces. The National Theatre, and other London companies, are moaning because £3m has been diverted to the regions in 1985-86.

Changing strategy so radically during a period of limited funding probably was not good timing, but subsidy is unlikely to increase under the present Government; and by going for a more democratic spread of aid, the council hopes to raise more money by quickening a response from local authorities.

Later this month, it will announce that its £3m has been matched by around £2.5m from regional authorities for joint funding schemes. With an internal review of the council's operations also under way, no one can say Sir William is acting like a conservative in his chairmanship.

But if Government penny-pinching has blunted the council's initiatives, the timing of its opponents could also be open to question. The real crunch for the arts will come next year when the metropolitan councils disappear and the Arts Council receives £16m extra from the Government to make up the shortfall. Sir William believes that this sum will be £5m less than is needed.

He also faces the problem of the South Bank in London. Much of the £16m will go towards establishing a new management authority there. The GLC, the present landlord, is unlikely to go for a smooth hand-over; in a year's time the Festival Hall, the Hayward, the National Film Theatre, and more, could be the victims of politics.

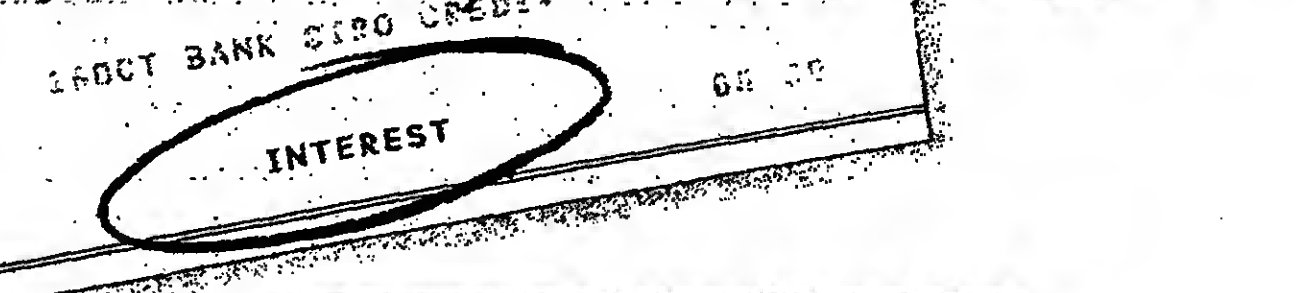
But there is a chance that the reorganisation of the South Bank will help the National Theatre. A new authority could take the National's building under its wing; even Sir William acknowledges that the root of the theatre's problems is a structure that costs £2.3m a year to administer. Perhaps Sir Peter is wise in putting the National in the forefront of the public consciousness before the horse-trading begins.

But even before 1986, the GLC will make its presence felt on the arts. Next week, it will decide whether to continue to subsidise the Festival Ballet, the National Theatre, ENO, and hundreds of smaller ventures. If it decides not to, the Arts Council will be quite unable to come up with any extra money. The Government will then have to decide whether it is prepared to rescue the deprived arts organisations, probably using the Arts Council as a conduit.

In 1882, preliminary drillings at Shakespeare Cliff near Dover were halted by military top brass for security reasons; and in World War II the Ministry of Defence is believed to have posted armed guards on the workings in case a Panzer division suddenly popped out. On economic grounds, there have been worries in Dover that, without ferry traffic, it would become a ghost town. Despite all this, the Channel Tunnel Association remains optimistic that the project will not only get off, but under, the ground. Eventually.

Contributors:  
Antony Thornicroft  
Jonathan Sale

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## Chunnel dream remains alive

Some of those attending the Tunneling Exhibition at the Metropole, Brighton, will be just window-shopping. Next week, 50 companies from 11 countries will be showing off the latest models for boring tunnels; but among visitors there is one group — the Channel Tunnel Association — which will not be putting down any deposits.

The association has 70 members, individuals and organisations, and never has given up hope that a tunnel will be built. Long before the technology was anywhere near ready, the Chunnel had its enthusiasts, as the association's

Churchill College Archives Centre in Cambridge, they demonstrate that the long-running battle was not with the living rock so much as the dead hand of fear-xenophobia and financial insecurity.

It was a French engineer, Albert Mathieu, who in 1802 proposed using a tunnel to re-establish a physical link between Britain and France, lost during the Ice Age when the narrow isthmus was submerged. His idea was that an artificial island should be built to allow horses to be changed in mid-Channel, with ventilation being provided by chimneys sticking above the waves.

The hazards to shipping presented by this scheme do not bear thinking about; today, the Straits of Dover are a perpetual

Another Frenchman, Thomas de Gamond, proposed a scheme to block the Channel entirely, apart from three movable bridges that would allow ships to pass through. A further scheme involved placing a tube on the sea-bed in such a way that trains could freewheel all the way downhill, before being winched up the final leg; how they were to make the return journey is a little obscure. Then there was the bridge that could be towed away and parked somewhere safe in the event of war.

All this was deeply disturbing to Britain's paranoics, and it did not help allay their fears when Napoleon expressed interest in the concept. French soldiers, it was suggested, could slip over disguised as day



## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Lloyds Bank up 11.7% to £468m

THE BIG four clearing banks results for 1984 were concluded yesterday by Lloyds Bank's announcement of a £468m taxable profit, which approached the top end of City estimates.

This is an 11.7 per cent improvement over the previous year's £419m, and was achieved in spite of a £50m increase to £268m in the provision for bad and doubtful debts.

The results are encouraging, given that the bank is still in the trough of the banking cycle, and have also helped to absorb the impact of last year's UK Budget, says Sir Jeremy Morse, group chairman.

Domestic operations accounted for all of the improvements with



profits ahead by £66m to £288m, while the international side's contribution declined by £5m to £18m.

Domestic banking contributed "well over half" of Lloyds' taxable profits. Average current account balances increased by 9 per cent, although overdraft facilities fell by a similar amount, but this was offset by an increase in balances on retail accounts paying higher rates of interest.

On the international side, Sir Jeremy says that operations were generally affected by low volume growth, with strong competition for quality business. Net interest income was up 20 per cent,

although interest margins were little changed. The budget cost Lloyds £468m below the line—£340m for deferred tax and the effect of reduced rentals from leases with tax variation clauses was £128m.

This change was balanced by a transfer from reserves and minority interests, but the chairman says "fortunately our capital ratios were previously strong by both British and world standards."

"Even so," he says that "the ratio of our shareholders' funds to total assets was brought down from 6 per cent before the Budget to 4.7 per cent at the end of the year."

"It will take some time to restore this ratio to a higher level, and with this in mind our prime objective must be to improve return on equity."

However, Sir Jeremy rules out the likelihood of a rights issue to strengthen Lloyds' capital position. Retained profits for 1984 were, after all charges, £35m lower at £188m.

The shares at last night's close stood at 545p, a 17p rise on the day, capitalising the bank, the smallest of the four main clearers, at £122bn. To bring the share price more within the reach of the small investor the directors are proposing a one-for-two scrip issue.

Shareholders in effect are having their total dividend distribution increased by 11.6 per cent. A final of 17p makes a total of 26.5p compared to last year's 23.75p, which was adjusted for a one-for-one scrip. Earnings fell from 119p to 98p per share after a higher tax charge of £23m against £136m.

Commenting on the results,

Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, says "the results are encouraging."

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"The most important thing is

## Courtaulds in £28m disposal to U.S. group

By Martin Dickson

International Paint, a subsidiary of Courtaulds, is to sell its UK automotive coatings business to PPG Industries, the U.S. glass and chemicals group, for £28m.

The business, based at Ladywood, Birmingham, is profitable, employs 400 people and manufactures and markets coatings for cars, car-refinishing, commercial vehicles and the aviation industry. A substantial part of the operation depends on technology licensed from PPG, which is the world leader in automotive coatings and has no UK operations.

The Ladywood plant accounts for around 6 per cent of International Paint's £350m annual turnover.

Its sale is part of a general rationalisation of the world paints business, with manufacturers concentrating internationally on sectors in which they have particular expertise.

International Paint wants to concentrate its resources on its strongest businesses. It is the world market leader in marine coatings and also specialises in heavy duty coatings and coatings for yachts.

For its part, PPG has been expanding its operations in Europe. While the UK car market will not provide it with a strongly growing domestic market for car paints, PPG's international position makes the acquisition attractive.

The deal also provides for the purchase of PPG's share of International Paint's Spanish and Italian subsidiaries in the car-reinish business.

By Martin Dickson

Difficult trading conditions in the first quarter resulted in a fall of almost a quarter in pre-tax profits from £69,000 to £51,000. After tax profits were 10 per cent down at £305,000.

The interim dividend is maintained at 3p per share.

Sales in the period to December 31, 1984 dropped 7.4 per cent from £26.35m to £24.37m, leaving gross profit on sales down by a fifth to £753,000. Annual management charges showed an increase of a third to £577,000, which resulted in gross profit on fund management slipping from £1.33m to £1.13m.

The directors say that after the difficult first quarter, sales in the second quarter were helped by the launch of a new fund—the Monthly Income fund.

Shares had been offered at a minimum tender price of 125p per share. The 20p increase to 145p capitalises Mann and Co. at £29m.

A number of multiple applications above the striking price were rejected as were all applications for less than 145p. Shareholders will receive no allocations and be returned.

Preference applications from employees for 439,931 shares at the striking price will be satisfied in full. Applications for up to 1,000 shares will receive 50 per cent, between 1,000 and 2,500 get 500; between 2,500 and 5,000 get 750; and between 5,000 and 10,000 get 1,000. Applications for more than 10,000 will receive approximately 16 per cent.

Dealings are expected to begin on Wednesday, March 13.

Contributors: Alison Hogan, Arnold Kransdorff, Stefan Wagstyl

## Dee's latest move fails to impress Booker board

By Alexander Nicoll

TRACK RECORD and earnings potential were stressed yesterday by Dee Corporation, the supermarkets group, in the formal offer document for its £330m bid for Booker McConnell, the food distributor and agribusiness group.

Mr Alec Monk, Dee chairman, said in a letter to Booker shareholders that "we have demonstrated that we actually deliver what we promise. It is vital to realise that the combination of the two businesses can offer you significantly greater benefits than those achievable if Booker McConnell remains independent."

Mr Jonathan Taylor, Booker's managing director, retorted: "The document contains nothing new and as a result is not an offer which should tempt Booker shareholders. It will tempt them even less when our defence document is published."

Dee renewed its bid for Booker, first launched last year, after receiving clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It is offering 125 of its shares for 100 Booker, with a shares-plus-loan alternative.

At yesterday's closing price for Dee of 195p, down 1p, the share offer values Booker shares at 244p, compared with yesterday's close of 249p, down 2p.

Dee, which argued that it had successfully used paper in previous acquisitions, said its paper should be accepted again because of a "better track record" because Booker shareholders would immediately get a higher earnings per share.

Its share offer would give a rise in capital value of 4.1 per cent and total income by 2.7 per cent, while the share loan

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Company	Current payment	Date	Corresponding dividend	Total last year
Alliance Trust	12.25	April 18	9.5	12.25
Antofagasta Hides	15	May 3	10	15
Framlington Group Int	17	April 17	14.87	26.5
Lloyds Bank	0.33	April 17	0.26	0.33
New Dairies Ltd	0.33	May 7	2.51	6
James Wilkes	2.5	June 14	2.5	11
Yarrow	2.5	June 14	2.5	11

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## Hillsdown on target at £19m

CONFIRMING PROFITS of nearly £19m for 1984, a 64 per cent increase on the previous year, the directors of Hillsdown Holdings express their confidence in the future.

Although it is too early for them to give any clear indication of profits for the current year, they say management accounts of this food group for the first two months are encouraging. The company became public in mid-February.

At the end of December, but before the proceeds of the offer for sale, shareholders' funds stood at £14m, compared with £10.4m before the offering and with £8.4m at the end of 1983. The public issue has increased the capital by £7.6m, shares

premiums by £34m, and cash by £57m, while minorities have been reduced by £4.3m through the redemption on February 6 of the FMC preference shares at par.

The directors are confident that Hillsdown will be successful in stimulating its existing subsidiaries to produce further substantial growth, and that the application of established policies to future acquisitions will provide a source of additional growth.

In 1984 turnover rose from £570m to £933m and the operating profit before interest was up from £15.5m to £26.3m. An analysis by activity shows: poultry, eggs and animal feeds (£280.7m) (£252m) and £10.6m (£25.5m); fresh meat and bacon

shown as increasing from 0.56p to 0.89p. In the last full year a single dividend of 0.2p was paid from pre-tax profits of £34,000 (£33,000).

Sales moved ahead from £1.4m to £1.2m.

Mr S. J. Woolfitt, chairman, points out that results include a further £42,000 of costs related to an aerosol system. He says it is taking much longer than expected to turn potential into profitable business, and steps have been taken to reduce the overheads.

He says that the company still has "relatively large surplus" and is active in investing.

gating acquisitions and diversifications.

In the clothing division Mr Woolfitt says that an increase in demand continued, but it still proved difficult to obtain satisfactory prices. Nevertheless, a small improvement in profitability was achieved, and he expects this trend to continue in the second half.

At the end of the last full year the directors said that turnover had been reduced by the sale of a loss-making subsidiary, and pre-tax profits had been affected by start-up costs on the aerosol project, which they continued to believe had potential to "generate large profits."

## Waddington to acquire Eyre and Spottiswoode

By Charles Batchelor

John Waddington, games and specialist printer, is to take over Eyre and Spottiswoode, security printer.

The purchase of Eyre would add £3m to turnover to Waddington's existing security printing business, with annual sales of about £26m. Total turnover of Waddington is expected to be about £78m in the year ending March 31 1985.

No financial details of either the deal or Eyre's recent profits were available, though the company has been profitable, Waddington said.

Waddington has reached agreement in principle to acquire Eyre. Completion of the deal is expected to take a few weeks.

Eyre is part of the Eyre family holding which also has the printing and security business founded in 1770.

It specialises in security printing through two subsidiaries, The Grosvenor Press (Portsmouth) and The Thanet Press of Margate. It also prints legal documents, mainly for Commonwealth companies.

Mr John Watson, a director of Waddington, said: "This purchase is in line with the diversification programme we have embarked on." Waddington's most recent acquisition was Vickers Business Forms, part of the Vickers group, for which it paid £3.3m in February 1984.

Since then Waddington has fought off a second attempt by Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon group to take over Waddington. The siege was finally lifted last December when Mr Maxwell's business interests sold the remains of their holding in Waddington.

The shares were unchanged at 590p yesterday.

Gibbs Mew sale

Gibbs Mew, Wiltshire brewer, has sold Robert Porter, its loss-making London distribution business, to James Palace Brewery for about £500,000.

Robert Porter made losses of £179,000 to the six months to September 31 1984, compared with losses of £54,000.

H & C/Pauls

Harrisons & Crossfield has paid 360p per share for 100,000 ordinary shares in Pauls, for which it has made a full bid.

H & C now owns 6.6m shares in Pauls, equal to 19.3 per cent of the ordinary capital.

Cifer bankers offer extra help as losses reach £3m

By Martin Dickson

Cifer, a small micro-computer manufacturer which is undergoing a major reorganisation, yesterday announced pre-tax losses of £3m for 1984, compared with profits of £1.35m.

It also said that its bankers had agreed to provide new loans to cover rationalisation costs and—in an unusual move—they had taken the option of converting these loans into Cifer equity.

Lloyds Bank is providing a loan of £275,000 and Investors in Industry one of £150,000, with the right to subscribe at par for 2.75m and 1.5m ordinary shares respectively over three years. If this right were exercised, these shares would represent 21 per cent of increased share capital.

The results also show that Cifer has had to set aside £10,000 for compensation to Mr John Woolfitt, its manufacturing director who resigned in April last year. However, Oliver Newland, chairman, said last night that only £25,000 of

## David Lascelles on the big four clearers' 1984 results

## The world is still a dangerous place

SOME PEOPLE might have been surprised to hear Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, claim yesterday that "We are still in the trough of the banking cycle, and have also helped to absorb the impact of last year's UK Budget," says Sir Jeremy Morse, group chairman.

Domestic operations accounted for all of the improvements with profits ahead by £66m to £288m, while the international side's contribution declined by £5m to £18m.

Domestic banking contributed "well over half" of Lloyds' taxable profits. Average current account balances increased by 9 per cent, although overdraft facilities fell by a similar amount, but this was offset by an increase in balances on retail accounts paying higher rates of interest.

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"It will take some time to restore this ratio to a higher level, and with this in mind our prime objective must be to improve return on equity."

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Commenting on the results, the chairman says that "the welcome recovery we have seen to an average growth rate of about 3 per cent in the major economies has done more for prosperity around the world than for those in difficulties."

"Hence our need to continue making provisions at an exceptionally high level for the third year running."

"We will," he says, "continue to devote our skills to managing the remaining problems, by ourselves or with other banks in the case of corporate debt, and in larger co-operation with governments, central banks and the IMF in the case of country debt."

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## RESULTS DUE NEXT WEEK

## R. Dutch/Shell dividend dilemma

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group will be reporting its preliminary results on Thursday against the background of impressive third quarter profits and some uncertainty about the dividend.

In terms of the payout, the recent radical currency movements favouring the U.S. dollar presents a sticky problem for the directors. In practice the dividend is calculated in sterling terms and then translated into Dutch guilders, the bulk of shareholders being historically resident in either the UK or Holland. But, over recent years the U.S. stake has built up and represents a fifth of the group's shareholders. Because of the strong dollar it would cost a lot more to keep the U.S. shareholders happy than the European shareholders. An interesting dilemma.

On the trading side production volumes should again be over the 1m barrels a day level in the fourth quarter given the completion of the maintenance programme. Downstream, in European refining, BP's results have reinforced the caution attached to margins, especially as there are few benefits to come through from cost savings. The range of forecasts for net income is between £3.3bn and £3.5bn on a historic cost basis and between £3.3bn and £3.5bn on a current cost of supply basis, which excludes stock profits.

## Sedgwick Group

After a flat first half, insurance analysts are not expecting much from Sedgwick Group when it announces its preliminary profits on Thursday. Trading conditions have been difficult across the sector and Sedgwick's performance will mirror this, especially on the shipping side.

As London's largest broker, Sedgwick has traditionally led the league but lately it has been slipping back, mainly because it has no great capacity in the U.S. It has recently opened a New York office to handle reinsurance business of but it will take some time to develop.

In the second half the company will have the additional burden of carrying some £3m costs for its new London headquarters.

The general consensus is that the group will report profits of between £34m and £38m for the year, against £30.1m last time.

## Guest Keen

In the first half of 1984 just 23 per cent of Guest Keen & Nettlefolds operating profits came from the UK—in the second half it is expected to be even less with the overseas share buoyed by strong performances in West Germany and the U.S. and flattered on translation by the weakness of the pound.

Automotive components are likely to show little improvement



## UK COMPANIES

## SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

## Take-over bids and deals

The battle for House of Fraser, the Harrods stores group, dominated this week's bid and deals scene. Fraser is recom- mending acceptance of a £100m bid from Al-Fayed Investment and Trust, run by the three Al-Fayed brothers. They acquired a 29.9 per cent stake in Fraser last November from Lorrain, Fraser's long-time suitor.

However, the Monopolies Commission has concluded that a merger between Lorrain and House of Fraser would not be expected to operate against the public interest. Lorrain has requested that Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, release it from other undertakings and to increase its Fraser stake to more than 29.9 per cent. Mr Tebbit is expected to announce his decision by the middle of next week and, at the same time, he is expected to decide whether the Al-Fayed bid should be investigated.

Harrisons and Crosfield, the plantations and chemicals group, increased the value of its bid for Pauls, a leading UK animal feeds manufacturer, from £107m to £113m and described the offer as final. Pauls formally rejected the new bid on Thursday.

One of the City's least well-kept secrets, a share-exchange bid worth £24m by Williams Holdings for fellow engineering group I & H. B. Jackson, was announced Monday. Jackson described the offer as unsolicited and unwelcome and stated that it will be strongly opposed.

Bladen Industries has embarked on an ambitious expansion programme which involves the purchase of the European steel drum manufacturing companies of City Investing of New York. City, which is going into voluntary liquidation, has placed its 34 per cent equity interest in Bladen with institutional investors at 122p per share.

Company	Value of bid for	Price per share**	Value of bid for	Price per share**	Bidder
Banco Inds	781	85	66	4.30	CH Industrials
Bombardier	309	23	23	1.05	Prumitins Hse
Black & Veatch	244	25	249	204.92	Dec Corp
Batterfield-Hay	27	264	221	3.21	Technology Inc
Dunlop	221	61	31	32.00	BTR
E of Scot Oushore	410	91	66	17	Ind Fin & Inv Co
Elson & Robbins	501	24	68	3.96	Hartons Grp
Foster Bros	197	138	138	2.49	Ward White
Haden	240	317	232	37.13	Trafalgar House
Hoskins & Horton	325	113	270	8.64	Lon & Mid Inds
House of Fraser	400	403	346	430.92	Al Fayed Inv & Trust (UK)
Hurst (Charles)	200	190	190	4.32	Garvagh Secs
Initial	588	53	43	318.50	REX
Jackson J. & H. B.	105	105	74	24.81	Williams Hldgs
Lee & Elliot	801	77	65	7.95	Sater
Lon & Mid Inds	173	174	134	25.95	Beazer (C. H.)
Lon & Mid Inds	9	9	101	2.41	Amal Estates
Major National	134	121	13	2.35	Bramall (C. D.)
Martin (E. R.)	433	433	420	43.65	Quadrax
Pauls	365	253	88	114.54	Harrisons & Crosfield
Petroler	58	88	50	9.06	Clyde Petroleum
Praet (F.)	76	77	43	3.14	608 Group
Secombe, Mr Hill	440	47	40	7.04	Citicorp
String Guarantee	71	68	325	253.32	P & O
Tames & See	5	11	11	0.20	Weber Hldgs
Thames & See	125	110	77	0.03	Weber Hldgs
TMG Group	125	110	77	124.02	Satrad Corp
Trident TV Ord	249	245	209	3.64	Pleasurema
Trident TV A	237	245	209	110.24	Pleasurema
Unibond	231	222	155	13.56	Beecham
Websters Group	145	133	140	22.84	Octopus Publs
Whittington	311	31	22	14.40	Atkins Home

\* All cash offer. \*\* Cash alternative. \* Partial bid. \$ For capital not already held. † Unconditional. \*\* Based on March 5 1985. † At suspension. † Shares and cash. † Related to NAV to be determined. † Loan stock. † Suspended.

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)	Earnings per share (p)	Dividends per share (p)
Barclays	Dec	655,000 (557,000)	83.1 (84.8)	26.0 (24.0)
Barlow Hldgs	Dec	7,490 (5,910)	10.6 (7.8)	4.55 (4.4)
Bladen Ind	Dec	2,970 (2,610)	—	— (7.2) (6.8)
BP	Dec	1,260,000 (970,000)	76.8 (47.5)	30.0 (24.0)
British Vita	Dec	11,880 (10,600)	24.3 (22.0)	6.2 (5.36)
Bryant, Derek	Dec	1,430 (1,190)	29.3 (24.9)	7.5 (6.0)
BSA	Dec	26,800 (20,775)	35.3 (11.9)	2.4 (2.0)
BT	Dec	234,000 (171,000)	26.5 (25.4)	13.0 (8.5)
Cabot, Schwepes	Dec	124,000 (1,068,000)	15.7 (13.6)	5.9 (5.4)
Centrust Rockstone	Dec	17,150 (7,770)	2.1 (4.1)	2.7 (2.44)
Comm Union	Dec	72,800 (9,200)	—	— (11.8) (11.8)
Coral	Dec	3,110 (2,580)	7.2 (7.2)	4.0 (3.7)
Crouch, Derek	Dec	1,760 (886)	14.5 (2.6)	6.39 (5.08)
Davies & Met	Dec	335 (523)	—	— (2.2) (2.2)
DJ See Akras	Dec	1,520 (1,530)	11.5 (13.3)	4.0 (4.0)
Ed Housing	Dec	337 (672)	9.7 (7.4)	6.3 (5.78)
General Acc	Dec	1,250 (1,130)	8.4 (8.4)	3.0 (—)
Hawley Group	Dec	3,900 (65,600)	5.9 (37.0)	20.0 (19.0)
Heywood Will	Dec	31,490 (14,230)	11.4 (6.4)	1.86 (1.58)
Jayplant	Dec	2,510 (2,350)	18.4 (21.7)	6.0 (5.8)
Jehsons Drill	Dec	39 (44)	1.3 (1.5)	0.25 (—)
Johnstones Paint	Dec	3,320 (14,200)	11.5 (30.7)	4.0 (4.0)
Jourdan, J	Dec	1,520 (1,530)	11.5 (13.3)	4.0 (4.0)
Lea Services	Dec	46,800 (38,300)	34.7 (39.3)	10.6 (9.75)
Midland Bank	Dec	15,000 (25,000)	27.1 (60.6)	25.5 (25.5)
Nat West	Dec	671,000 (518,000)	88.0 (128.0)	28.34 (16.34)
Nationwide Leis	Dec	843 (401)	3.4 (0.8)	0.5 (0.25)
Powerline Int'l	Dec	1,320 (947)	6.5 (2.7)	1.0 (1.0)
Prov Fin Group	Dec	18,400 (17,600)	22.7 (32.6)	10.5 (9.0)
Ransomes Sims	Dec	12,200 (98,400)	—	— (23.75) (22.8)
Royal Insurance	Dec	587 (2,520)	—	— (4.62) (4.2)
Tech for Bus	Dec	313 (272)	—	— (4.82) (4.3)
Unilever	Dec	924,000 (769,000)	133.8 (102.8)	35.52 (30.86)
Woodhouse & Rix	Dec	262 (444)	—	— (1.0) (0.75)

## INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)	Interim dividends per share (p)
AAH Holdings	Sept	6,670 (6,650)	2.67 (2.43)
Arlen Ind	Sept	1,621 (1,671)	—
Bramham	Sept	468 (207)	0.66 (0.4)
Bramham Miller	Sept	202 (469)	—
Compos Holdings	Sept	800 (880)	3.0 (2.0)
Countrywide	Sept	1,370 (1,020)	1.0 (1.75)
Galiford	Dec	241 (178)	—
Medminster	Dec	251 (425)	—
Philvitec Mar	Oct	277 (447)	—
Resource Tech	Oct	—	—

\* Dividends are shown net pence per share except where otherwise indicated. † For nine months. † Loss.

## Rights Issues

Glass Glover—To raise £7.35m through a one for three rights issue at 23p.

Ryan International—To raise £0.755m through a one for three rights issue at 7p per share.

Barclays—To raise £507m through a one for 100 rights issue at 150p per share.

## Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Bladen Industries—Placing of 9m shares at 112p per share. Half are reserved for shareholders who are guaranteed three new shares for every 10 held. Also offer for sale by tender of 5.95m shares at a minimum price of 112p.

Bournemouth and District Water—Raising £2m through an issue of 12 1/2 per cent stock 1995 at par.

BTS Group—USM placing of 1.23m shares at 82p per share.

Falcon Industries—Placing of 5.74m new shares at 35p per share.

ICI—To raise £148.5m through a placing of 18m new shares at 82 1/2p per share.

Mann and Co—Offer for sale by tender of 6.66m shares at a minimum price of 125p.

Mid Kent Water—Raising £3m through an issue of 12 1/2 per cent stock 1995 at par. Plus £2m through an issue of 12 1/2 per cent debenture stock 2005 at par.

Cement-Roadstone—Placing of 15.6m new ordinary shares at 64p to raise £10.98m.

Highland Participants—Private placing of 1.25m shares at 150p to raise £18.7m.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

## Brazilian state to sell 18% stake in Fiat Automoveis

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE Minas Gerais state government has put up for sale its 18 per cent shareholding in Fiat Automoveis, the Brazilian vehicle manufacturing subsidiary of Fiat SpA, for which it is hoping to raise an estimated US\$450m.

Sr Jose Geraldo Ribeiro, a state government minister, said on Thursday that interest had already been shown by an unnamed Japanese concern and by the Kuwait Investment Fund. "We hope to realise the sale as rapidly as possible," he said.

After running up accumulated losses of \$600m in its first seven years of operation, to 1983, Fiat Automoveis is expected to show an after-tax profit on its 1984 balance-sheet for the first time.

This turnaround in the for-

tunes of Brazil's fourth largest—and most recently established—vehicle manufacturer has convinced the Minas Gerais Government that now is the right time to get out.

The move is "opportunistic and favourable," said Sr Ribeiro, who disclosed that an international auditor would be invited in shortly to give an up to date appraisal of the Belim, Minas Gerais-based company's net worth.

The cash-strapped state government has steadily reduced its shareholding in the company—into which it has ploughed \$370m—from an original 45 per cent to its present 18 per cent. It did not participate in the last two capital increases, which were absorbed entirely by the Italian parent company.

Fiat SpA will be given first option on taking up the minority shares on offer. But it has not yet indicated whether it will be exercising this right.

The Kuwait Investment Fund, already holds a 10 per cent stake in Brazil's largest vehicle manufacturer, Volkswagen do Brasil, which it bought from the Monteiro Aranha group, a private Brazilian holding company in 1981.

Among the Japanese vehicle manufacturers only Toyota has a foothold in the Brazilian four-wheel vehicle market, manufacturing pick-ups and light trucks. Any further penetration by outsiders has been effectively denied to them by government protectionist barriers for the past decade.

## Pirelli to lay off 2,400 workers

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN IN MILAN

PIRELLI, the leading Italian tyre and cables group, is to make redundant almost 2,400 workers in Italy, or 22 per cent of its tyre division's Italian workforce.

The lay-off, which will be announced shortly, comes after 12 months of bitter negotiations and troubles between the Pirelli management and trade unions which have opposed the company's plans to close down the Bicocca tyre factory in Milan.

The reason for the closure is a desire to introduce new

technology and streamline product lines in the group.

Sig Jacopo Vittorelli, managing director of the Pirelli SpA holding company, yesterday confirmed plans for Pirelli to reduce its 30 per cent stake in Sirti, the cable-making joint venture with the STET state telecommunications group and other companies.

Sir Vittorelli said that under a share swap, Fiat Standard, the Italian subsidiary of IRI, which has 10 per cent of Sirti, would also pull out, as would Cent, which also has 10 per cent of Sirti.

## Texas Pacific to sell Thai concessions

BY BOONSONG K'THANA IN BANGKOK

TEXAS PACIFIC OIL, disappointed with long inconclusive negotiations on the sale of natural gas to the Thai government, has offered to sell its rights to concessions in the Gulf of Thailand back to the government.

Mr Phillip Beckman, president of Seagram Corporation, the parent company of the Dallas-based oil company, and top Thai government officials, have agreed to start talks later this month or early next month in Bangkok.

Pending conclusion of negotiations, Thailand will take over TP's interests in blocks 14-16.

## Fluor shows first quarter loss-plans asset sales

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN NEW YORK

FLUOR, the struggling California-based construction and natural resources company, lost \$32.6m, equal to 41 cents a share, in the first quarter of its fiscal year compared with a deficit of \$18.6m in the same period last year. Sales amounted to \$951m against \$1.1bn.

Mr David Tappan, chairman, said that the quarterly order intake in the engineering and construction division of the group had been the largest for three and a half years. As a result, the order backlog had risen by 25 per cent to \$5.2bn from \$4.2bn at the end of 1984. Nevertheless, the first quarter

results had been adversely affected by operating losses to both the engineering and construction division and the natural resources activities. Metal prices fell by around 10 per cent in the natural resources activities, while lead and coal production fell because of labour disputes.

In addition, the group's net interest payments had increased. Mr Tappan, who took over as chairman last year, said that the group was expecting to complete "significant additional asset sales" in 1985 to help reduce debt.

## Union Enterprises buys meat packer

BY BERNARD SIMON IN TORONTO

UNION ENTERPRISES, the Ontario gas utility, is to acquire Canada's second largest meat packing company as part of a concerted effort to state off a badly contested takeover bid by Unicom, a Toronto-based real estate and financial services group.

The Ontario utility said it will pay C\$125m (US\$89.3m) in convertible preferred shares for Burns Foods of Calgary, whose other interests include dairies, oilseeds crushing and fruit and vegetable distribution. Burns is privately owned.

The acquisition will dilute Unicom's stake in Union Enterprises, built up over the last few months by purchases on the open market and the support of one major Union Enterprises' shareholder, from 35 per cent to less than 30 per cent. A Unicom offer for the remaining Union Enterprises shares, valued at a total of around C\$400m, expires on Monday.

The struggle for control of Union Enterprises is one of the most bitter takeover battles in Canada in recent years, pitting a long-established and conservative utility against a fast-growing and aggressive company with no experience in gas distribution. Unicom's assets are only about one-third those of Union Enterprises.

Union Enterprises, headed by former Provincial Treasurer (Finance minister) Mr Darcy McKeough, has attempted to forestall Unicom's bid on a number of fronts. The Ontario

Securities Commission last month rejected the company's argument that the Unicom offer of preferred shares and warrants was less favourable than the cash paid to shareholders whose shares had been bought on the open market.

The Ontario Government has turned down Union Enterprises' bid to transform itself from a holding company into a gas utility, which would have made Unicom's shareholding subject to the approval of the province's energy authorities.

Union Enterprises has also appealed to the Ontario Energy Board to block the acquisition in the interests of its customers, concentrated in south-west Ontario.

## FFr 860m aid package sought by Kleber

By David Marsh in Paris

KLEBER, the loss-making subsidiary of the Michelin tyre group is negotiating an aid package of FFr 860m (583m), mainly from nationalised banks, to help restructure its balance sheet.

Part of the funds will come from the state and from Michelin itself. Kleber, which is believed to have lost around FFr 200m last year after a deficit FFr 400m in 1983 has like its parent company, run into cashflow difficulties following the weakness of tyre markets in France and abroad.

Michelin, which has not yet published results, continued to lose money in 1984 having earlier hoped to break even. It ran up deficits of FFr 2.1bn in 1983 and FFr 4.2bn in 1982.

Michelin raised a FFr 4bn low interest loan last autumn from French banks, prompted, it is believed, by the direct intervention of the Eusee Palace in order to put its finances onto a sounder footing.

In the Kleber package a group of banks led by the Banque Nationale de Paris is expected to put up a total of FFr 600m. The group will write off FFr 450m of debt and contribute FFr 150m of new funds.

Michelin is likely to contribute FFr 50m, arguing that its own financial problems makes greater participation difficult.

Loans from the government of FFr 210m are expected to complete the package. Banks involved in the deal, apart from the BNP, are believed to be Credit Industriel et Commercial, Credit du Nord, Credit Lyonnais and Banque Francaise du Commerce Extérieur.

## Hang Seng Bank tops expectations

By David Dodwell in Hong Kong

HANG SENG BANK, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, has turned in profits, after tax and transfers to inner reserves of HK\$831.6m (US\$106.6m), an 8 per cent improvement on 1983's HK\$770m.

The better-than-expected profits were a direct result of the strong performance of the Hong Kong economy last year, a bank official said.

Since the Hongkong bank equity accountants its 62 per cent holding in the Hang Seng Bank, the figures will give a fillip to its parent's 1984 results, which are expected next Tuesday.

The Hang Seng Bank has one of the largest branch networks in Hong Kong, and is a market leader in trade finance. It has therefore benefited directly from a 32 per cent increase in merchandise trade in 1984.

As a prominent supplier of mortgages to buyers of smaller residential properties in Hong Kong, it began to benefit in the last quarter of the year from improved interest in home buying.

The bank recommends a final dividend of HK\$1.57 a share, making a total for the year of HK\$1.57. It also proposes a one-for-one scrip issue.

## Bond Corporation clash with NCSC

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL IN SYDNEY

BOND CORPORATION, of Perth, clashed angrily with Australia's National Companies and Securities Commission (NCSC) yesterday, following NCSC questioning of Bond's reporting of its interim profit figure earlier this week.

On Tuesday, Bond said that its December half-year net profit was A\$9.3m (US\$6.3m). However, on Wednesday, Bond's formal profit statement indicated that unspecified capital gains had contributed A\$13.9m in pre-tax earnings, suggesting that other areas of the group had suffered losses.

Last year, Bond initially reported a full year net profit of A\$9.3m. Later, it revealed that equity-accounted losses at associate companies—primarily its troubled retailing operations, Walltons Bond and Norman Ross—had produced a consolidated group net loss of A\$14m.

Yesterday, the NCSC asked Bond to provide supplementary details of equity-accounted gains or losses for the December half-year. It also questioned the extent of Bond's U.S. borrowings, noting that the U.S. dollar against the Australian dollar again fell to a low level.

The NCSC asked Bond's interim results in exchange losses, and whether there had been any significant change in the group's assets since December 31.

Apert from breaching a ruling, Bond's interests in two television stations, in Perth and Sydney, are natural resources.

The company seemed to have released its interim results in all matters to do with stock exchange requirements.

The group's chairman, yachtsman Alan Bond,

noted price competition for Ekerind & Rausing pack unit had increased.

Major acquisitions during the year negatively affected group's net financial cost. 1984 interest costs rose to 395m from SKr 291m in 1983.

The group predicts a decrease in 1985 operating profit but says results in the part of 1985 will be pre- by the restructuring plan and the competitive situation while the negative trend financial items is expected to subside due to the acquisitions that were made.

Not included in the results is non-recurring SKr 450m for the sale of real estate holdings.

Kleber sales rose 31 per cent to SKr 1,095m and profit rose 4 per cent to SKr 47m while total operating profit surged 21 per cent to SKr 245m and sales climbed cent to SKr 2,285m.

## BNL link with Rothschild

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

BANCA NAZIONALE del Lavoro, the state-controlled institution which is Italy's biggest bank, is carrying out an exchange of shareholdings with Baron Edmond de Rothschild's Paris-based financial group which should help it develop banking services for corporate clients.

The Compagnie Financiere Rothschild is to take 27 per cent of the Italian Banca Tiburtina in which BNL also has a 27 per cent stake, and the two banks will control it between them.

BNL, for its part, will take a 10 per cent stake in the Rothschild group's Paris bank, Compagnie Financiere Rothschild.

BNL is planning protective measures to ward off a takeover following reports that a London bank, acting on behalf of Saudi interests, had purchased at least 25 per cent of Hero.

"We have decided to do everything in our power to fight against an unfriendly takeover," said Mr Alfred Sarasin Hero's president at a press conference yesterday.

Hero is splitting its shares into one hearse and two registered shares. In addition, it plans to increase capital by SwFr 5m to 35m (1812m) by a rights issue. Hero's profits were 10.5m for 1984, on sales SwFr 424.2m.

## MAZER WINE SHIPPERS plc

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Mazer Wine Shippers plc will trade as a wholesaler in fine wines. The minimum for the issue to proceed has been underwritten. Lists will close on March 29 or earlier if all shares offered are applied for. A first allotment of shares will be made on 15 March.

Copies of the application form and prospectus, on the terms of which alone applications will be considered, may be obtained from Noble & Company Limited, or from the following branches of the Clydesdale Bank plc:



St. James Estates PLC ("the Company") has not yet started business and has no established trading record. If you have any doubt about this document you should consult a stockbroker, licensed dealer, bank manager, solicitor or other professional adviser. This document has been prepared for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Company. The Directors of the Company have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or opinion. All the Directors accept responsibility accordingly. No application has been made for listing of or dealing in the Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company on any Stock Exchange or other securities market. Two copies of this document having attached thereto the documents specified herein, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration.

# ST. JAMES ESTATES PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948-81 No. 1841294)

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 415 Strand, London WC2R 2PS  
**AUDITORS AND REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS** **CLARE WHITEHILL**, Chartered Accountants,  
 25, New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN  
**SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY** **JEFFREY GREEN AND RUSSELL**,  
 Apollo House, 56, New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DG  
**SOLICITORS TO THE SPONSOR** **NABARRO NATHANSON**,  
 76, Fennell Street, London SW1Y 6NR  
**SPONSOR AND LICENSED DEALER** **UTC SECURITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED**,  
 55, Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DB 01-499 0233  
**REGISTRARS AND TRANSFER OFFICE** **W. H. STENTFORD & CO.**,  
 Woodland House, Colingwood Road, Wilham, Essex CM8 2TS

## DEFINITIONS

"the Company" St. James Estates PLC  
 "UTC" United Trust & Credit PLC  
 "Securities" UTC Securities Management Limited  
 "CEM" Corporate Estates Management Limited  
 "BES" the Business Expansion Scheme established by the Finance Act 1983 (as amended)  
 "Ordinary Shares" Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company

## SUMMARY

The following information must be read in conjunction with the full text of this document.

**BUSINESS**  
 The Company will develop and restore to high standards residential property in prime locations in London.

**ASSETS**  
 The Company will operate in prime areas of London where growth in property values in recent years has exceeded the rate of inflation. The Company's assets will consist of property in the course of development and restoration and cash.

The tangible net asset value per Ordinary Share assuming full subscription and full dilution is 54.9p.

**DIRECTORS**  
 The Board has considerable experience of the London residential property market and in particular of site selection and profitable development.

**ADVISERS**  
 Keith Cardle Groves, a London firm of Chartered Surveyors, will review each project prior to commencement. Bovis Construction Limited will assist the Board as Design and Construction Managers.

**BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME**  
 Individual subscribers should, subject to certain conditions, receive income tax relief at their highest rates of tax for the year ending 5th April 1985. The effect is illustrated below:—

Highest rate of tax applicable	Effective cost per Ordinary Share
60%	24p
50%	30p
30%	42p

**MARKETABILITY**  
 An Over-the-Counter market in the Ordinary Shares will be made by UTC Securities Management Limited.

## INTRODUCTION

Over the last 40 years the value of residential property in prime areas of London has appreciated at a rate which has exceeded that of inflation. This has been generated by strong demand exceeding a limited supply of suitable properties.

Steady domestic demand has been reinforced by overseas buyers who seek to acquire houses and apartments as alternatives to hotel accommodation or as investments. London is regarded by many overseas buyers as a safe and civilised city in which to live, in a country which enjoys political stability. The fall in the value of sterling against many foreign currencies in the last few years has enhanced the attractiveness of London property.

Further demand has come from international companies who seek to purchase accommodation for their executives here in view of the cost and scarcity of rented accommodation.

This Offer for Subscription provides an opportunity to invest in an asset based company whose business will be the development of residential property for sale and which should enable individual investors, depending on their circumstances, to obtain income tax relief on their investment for the year ending 5th April 1985.

## PROPOSED BUSINESS

The Company intends to establish a property development business with specific objectives. The funds subscribed will be directed towards the development and restoration to high standards of residential property in prime locations in London. The Board may on occasion consider developments in highly regarded residential areas outside London.

The Directors expect to undertake a limited number of high value projects which would normally be beyond the reach of many smaller developers.

Particular attention will be directed to:

- Restoration of existing apartments and houses
- Development of new high quality residences
- Redevelopment of residential portfolios held by institutions on a joint venture basis
- Development of the residential element forming part of commercial projects.

Generally, projects undertaken will involve a substantial construction element in order to ensure that the Company's activities will constitute a qualifying trade for BES purposes.

It is anticipated that the Board, with its wide and varied experience of London residential property, will be able to identify properties in the best locations for development.

Keith Cardle Groves, a London firm of Chartered Surveyors, has been engaged to review each project, prior to its commencement, for the Board's consideration.

The Directors will ensure that building projects are managed efficiently with reliable cost, timing and quality control and, to assist, have engaged the services of Bovis Construction Limited to act as Design and Construction Managers.

The Directors believe that trading risks associated with residential property development can be significantly reduced by funding development costs largely from the Company's own resources. Accordingly, the Directors intend to limit borrowings in relation to each project and, overall, to a level which will not exceed the value of shareholders' funds.

It is the Directors' opinion that their approach will provide a high degree of stability to the Company. Limited dependence on loan finance should give considerable flexibility in the timing of sales.

The Directors believe that there are good opportunities for a company with a sound equity base and an experienced and professional board concentrating on residential development in prime areas of London. It is intended that the Company will consider making an application for a dealing facility on the Unlisted Securities Market of The Stock Exchange when appropriate.

The Directors believe that the development programme they intend to undertake will create work and employment opportunities for the building and allied trades.

## Offer for Subscription

### Under the Business Expansion Scheme

of up to

10,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each

at a price of 60p per share

Sponsored by

**UTC Securities Management Limited**

(Licensed Dealer in Securities)

The Subscription List opened at 10.00 a.m. on 18th February 1985 and may close at any time hereafter but not later than 3.00 p.m. on 15th March 1985.

## SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised £3,000,000 in Ordinary Shares of 25p each £2,625,000 Issued and to be Issued Fully Paid £2,625,000

In addition there are Warrants in existence which give the holders thereof the option to subscribe for a further 500,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at 60p per share.

The Ordinary Shares now offered rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared or paid on the Ordinary Share capital of the Company.

## INDEBTEDNESS

At the close of business on the day prior to the date of issue of this document the Company did not have any loan capital (including term loans) outstanding or any such capital created but unused, and had no mortgages, charges or borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowing, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills) or acceptance credits, hire-purchase commitments, gas, water or electricity contracts, or other financial obligations.

## DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND PREMISES

The Directors of the Company are as follows

**ANDREW LANGTON** (Non-Executive) aged 41, is the founder and Managing Director of Aylesford & Company (Estate Agents) Limited. The firm was formed in 1967 and has a reputation for handling high quality residential property at each of its three offices in Chelsea, Kensington and Wimbledon.

**JACK COLLIS** (Non-Executive) aged 62, is a Consultant Partner at De Croot Collis, a firm of Estate Agents and Valuers which has been established for 50 years. The firm has four offices in London handling a full range of property and their Knightsbridge office handles residential property in central London.

**LEONARD PHILLIPS**, aged 50, has been engaged in property investment and development for over 30 years. He has been a Director of A. J. Hines & Co. Limited and City Holdings Limited and in recent years has concentrated his activities on the acquisition of high quality properties in London. He is a Director of UTC Trading Corporation PLC and Corporate Estates Properties Limited.

**DAVID ELIAS**, aged 34, is Chairman of Anglo-City Property Group Limited and a director of Park Commercial Developments PLC. He has been engaged in residential and commercial property development and investment since 1970. He is a Lloyd's Underwriting Member.

**JEREMY GORMAN**, aged 37, is a Chartered Accountant, Finance Director of the Company and a director of UTC Management Services Limited, a subsidiary of UTC, through which office he acts as a finance director of a number of other public companies.

The day to day business of the Company will be managed by Leonard Phillips and David Elias. In addition services will be provided by CEM under the terms of an Agreement details of which are set out in paragraph 5 of Appendix IV. CEM is a company owned by Corporate Estates Properties Limited and Anglo-City Property Group Limited. CEM will arrange the selection and purchase of property and any financing required, direct the Design and Construction Managers and handle the marketing promotion and sale of developments. Leonard Phillips and David Elias have agreed to make available whatever time is needed to fulfil their duties and have undertaken to offer to the Company all potential residential property developments identified by them which are suitable for the business of the Company.

For its services CEM shall be entitled to an annual fee at the rate of 2½ per cent. of the net asset value of the Company and a further fee equal to 20 per cent. of the net profit of each development payable upon realisation of such profit by the Company.

The business of the Company will be conducted from premises at 55 Grosvenor Street, London W1, which it occupies under an agreement with UTC, and will bear an equitable proportion of the costs. It is anticipated that this will not exceed £2,000 in the period to 31st December 1985.

## PROPERTY ADVISERS

The Company has retained Keith Cardle Groves, a London firm of Chartered Surveyors, as property advisers.

They will be requested to assist the Board in reviewing the profitability of potential developments. Anthony Marjo, FRICS, FSA, who is senior partner of the firm, has considerable experience in advising on all forms of residential property development and will personally supervise the work done by his firm.

## DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

The Directors will maintain close supervision, cost and quality control over the Company's construction activities. They will be assisted by Bovis Construction Limited in their capacity as Design and Construction Managers.

The Bovis group have major interests in private housing and international construction and are owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P & O). Bovis has particular expertise in the construction and development of high quality residential property. They will provide a professional team including architects, quantity surveyors, engineers and construction managers. Construction will be carried out by specialist sub-contractors selected on a competitive basis.

## OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION

The Company has, at the date hereof, a paid up share capital of £125,000. The Directors, UTC and associates hold a total of 500,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each, for which they subscribed in cash at par.

The Company has entered into an agreement details of which are contained in paragraph 2 of Appendix IV with Securities whereby Securities has agreed to use its best endeavours to procure subscribers for up to 10,000,000 Ordinary Shares offered for subscription at 60p per share. Securities will be paid a fee for this service of 4½ per cent., out of which it may pay commissions of up to 3½ per cent. to stockbrokers and recognised agents. The Offer for Subscription referred to herein is the subject of a prospectus, substantially in the form of this document, dated 14th February 1985.

The whole of the net proceeds of the Offer for Subscription will be received by the Company. Subject to the minimum subscription being raised, the Company will start its proposed business of residential development as soon as possible. The number of developments to be undertaken initially will depend largely on the amount of capital raised by this Offer. Pending full utilisation of the proceeds for such developments, surplus monies will be placed on deposit with the Company's bankers.

## UNITED TRUST & CREDIT PLC

UTC is the holding company of a diversified financial and commercial group. The group is involved in new issues for the Unlisted Securities and Over-the-Counter Markets, acts as a market maker, provides corporate and financial advice, engages in commercial lending and investment management. An associated company, UTC Trading Corporation PLC, is an investment holding company with residential and commercial property interests. Corporate Estates Properties Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of UTC Trading Corporation PLC, is managed by Leonard Phillips and is a promoter and shareholder in the Company.

UTC will receive a fee in connection with the Offer for Subscription and has undertaken for a period of five years, to provide to the Company financial and corporate advice. Another subsidiary, UTC Management Services Limited will provide the Company with the services of a Finance Director and Secretary.

The existing shareholders including UTC and its associates hold warrants to subscribe for a further 500,000 Ordinary shares at the Offer for Subscription price of 60p per share before 31st December, 1990. Upon exercise of the warrants these interests would represent approximately 9 per cent. of the issued share capital of the Company, assuming full subscription.

## WORKING CAPITAL

No shares will be allotted pursuant to this Offer for Subscription unless a minimum of 1,000,000 Ordinary shares are subscribed for on or before the closing date for applications. Applications have been received for Ordinary shares in excess of this minimum number and at the date hereof none of such shares have been allotted or agreed to be allotted. Taking into account the minimum net proceeds of the Offer for Subscription, the Board considers that the Company will have sufficient working capital for its present requirements.

The Directors believe that the Company will be able to secure development finance on reasonable terms when required.

## PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

The Company has no trading record and it is not possible to make any forecast of profits. The intention of the Directors is to undertake developments which will show a return of at least 20 per cent. per annum on the shareholders' funds invested by the Company. The Directors consider that the profits after tax generated by the Company should be retained during the early years and applied in expanding its activities. Accordingly, investors are advised not to anticipate early dividend payments although it is intended to start such payments when it is commercially prudent to do so.

## PRO-FORMA BALANCE SHEET

There is set out below a Pro-forma Balance Sheet of the Company as at the date hereof prepared on the basis of full subscription.

	Notes	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank		6,125,000
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(a)	386,250
<b>Total Assets</b>		5,738,750
<b>Called up Share Capital</b>	(b)	2,625,000
Share premium account		3,113,750
<b>Total Assets</b>		5,738,750

**NOTES TO THE PRO-FORMA BALANCE SHEET**

(a) Creditors  
 Capital duty  
 Expenses of the issue (including VAT)  
 Total chargeable against share premium account

(b) Called up Share Capital  
 Ordinary Shares of 25p each  
 Authorised — 12,000,000  
 Issued and fully paid — 10,500,000

## SHARE TRANSFERS

There is at present no intention to seek a listing for the share capital of the Company on The Stock Exchange, nor for such capital to be dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market. The Ordinary Shares now being offered are to be allotted on the basis that they are to be held by subscribers for investment purposes. Securities will, where possible, make an Over-the-Counter market in the shares of the Company. This market may not be very active for five years because of the requirement to hold shares for that period in order not to have tax relief disallowed.

Over the next five years, though not before a period of three years has expired, the Directors will consider the possibility of providing investors with a wider market for the shares of the Company, for example, by seeking permission to deal on the Unlisted Securities Market of The Stock Exchange.

Notwithstanding that the Ordinary Shares of the Company are not listed or dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market, the Directors of the Company have agreed with Securities to observe regulations in line with the General Undertaking given to The Stock Exchange by companies which come to the Unlisted Securities Market together with The Stock Exchange Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Companies and with the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

## BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

The Directors have been advised that on the basis of the law and other relevant circumstances existing at the date of this document and based upon the manner in which the Directors have indicated that the business will be conducted, investment in the Ordinary Shares, the subject of this Offer for Subscription, should qualify for relief under the Business Expansion Scheme established by the Finance Act 1983 (as amended).

The Company has also received provisional confirmation from H.M. Inspector of Taxes that, on the information currently available the Company's activities will constitute a qualifying trade for such purposes. Formal approval can be given only when the Company has submitted a formal statement to the Inland Revenue as required by the legislation after the Company has carried on a qualifying trade for at least four months.

Individual investors should, depending on their circumstances, be able to obtain Income Tax relief at their highest rates of tax in respect of the year ending 5th April 1985. Investors are strongly advised to consult their own professional advisers in relation to the eligibility of their investment for tax relief.

Further details of the Business Expansion Scheme are given in Appendix III.

## APPLICATIONS

Applications for Ordinary shares must be made on the application form at the foot of this Prospectus or the application form attached to the Prospectus dated 14th February 1985 and in accordance with the section entitled "Application Procedure".

The subscription list for the shares now being offered opened at 10.00 a.m. on 18th February 1985 and will close not later than 3.00 p.m. on 15th March 1985. The issue is not underwritten and the Directors will not allot any shares unless the minimum subscription is received no later than 3.00 p.m. on 15th March 1985.

## APPENDIX I

Accountants' Report



**Clark Whitehill**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 25 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN. Telephone: 01-553 1572. Telex: 887422.  
 Offices and associated firms in major cities throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the world.

14 February 1985

The Directors  
 St. James Estates PLC  
 55 Grosvenor Street  
 London W1X 9DB

The Directors  
 UTC Securities Management Limited  
 55 Grosvenor Street  
 London W1X 9DB

Continued: **St. James Estates PLC ("the Company")**

We report that the Company was incorporated on 15 August 1984 under the name of Jordans 192 Public Limited Company. The name of the Company was changed on 7 February 1985 to St. James Estates PLC.

The Company has not traded, made up any accounts or paid any dividends.

Yours faithfully,

Clark Whitehill

Small Work John Robert Morris Andrew Chiswick Ann Kenneth Barker Richard A. Hough David W. Hough  
 Charles A. Day David J. Dwyer J. Michael Fisher Peter J. Howard David A. Hunt John W. Leonard John W. Leonard  
 David A. Lewis David M. Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis  
 David A. Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis  
 David A. Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis  
 David A. Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis J. Michael Lewis











## CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## Dollar nervous

The dollar closed at DM 3.425 against the D-mark up from DM 3.370 on Thursday and after in New York. This kind of movement was a good reflection of the nervous state of the market. Trading volume was low ahead of the weekend with fears of central bank intervention still inhibiting speculative interest. It touched a best level of DM 3.430 in early trading on higher than expected U.S. money supply figures. News of a slight fall in U.S. unemployment had little effect on trading. On Bank of England figures the dollar's index fell to 155.4 from 155.7.

Sterling was firmer overall and

its index rose to 71.1 from 70.5. Against the dollar it was unchanged at \$1.0655 but it rose against the D-mark to DM 3.6275 from DM 3.6250. It eased to FF 1.06 from FF 1.0775 but rose against the yen to Y275.75 from Y275.50 and fell to SwFr 3.08 from SwFr 3.0950.

## New York rates

March 8	Prev. close
2 spot \$1,065.0000	\$1,065.0000
1 month 0.47-0.48pm	0.46-0.47pm
3 months 1.05-1.06pm	1.04-1.05pm
6 months 1.40-1.40pm	1.39-1.40pm
12 months 1.70-1.70pm	1.69-1.70pm

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar.

## OTHER CURRENCIES

Mar. 8	£	¢	Note Rates	
Argentina Peso	304.55-306.11	285.16-286.41	Austria	25.40-26.85
Australia Dollar	1.5400-1.5440	1.4415-1.4450	Belgium	33.92-35.12
Brazil Cruzeiro	275.15-76.95	275.15-76.95	Denmark	13.93-13.05
Canada Dollar	1.00-1.00	1.00-1.00	France	33.00-33.16
Denmark Krone	16.53-13.05	16.53-13.05	Germany	5.47-5.84
France Franc	6.55-10.16	6.55-10.16	Italy	2245-2250
Germany Mark	1.00-1.00	1.00-1.00	Japan	160.00-160.00
Greece Drachma	340.75-341.25	340.75-341.25	Netherlands	4.08-4.12
Italy Lira	1,936.25-1,937.50	1,936.25-1,937.50	Norway	10.31-10.41
Japan Yen	160.00-160.00	160.00-160.00	Portugal	200.00-200.00
Netherlands Guilder	2.20-2.20	2.20-2.20	Spain	166.67-166.67
New Zealand Dollar	1.60-1.60	1.60-1.60	Sweden	4.60-4.60
Portugal Escudo	200.00-200.00	200.00-200.00	Switzerland	1.75-1.75
Spain Peseta	166.67-166.67	166.67-166.67	United States	1.04-1.04
Sweden Krona	4.60-4.60	4.60-4.60	Yugoslavia	100.00-100.00
Switzerland Franc	1.75-1.75	1.75-1.75		
UK Pound	1.00-1.00	1.00-1.00		
US Dollar	1.00-1.00	1.00-1.00		
Yugoslavia Dinar	100.00-100.00	100.00-100.00		

1 Correction: Kuwait-S (Mar. 7) 0.3065-0.3075.

## EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Mar. 8	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canadian Dollar	Belgian Franc	Frank
Pound Sterling	1.0000	1.0655	3.4250	160.00	6.5510	2.0035	3.3750	2036.25	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
U.S. Dollar	0.9387	1.0000	3.4250	150.15	6.1615	1.9363	3.3750	2036.25	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
Deutsche Mark	0.2924	0.2924	1.0000	163.89	7.9363	2.4536	3.3750	2036.25	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
Japanese Yen	0.0062	0.0062	0.0062	1.0000	11.6379	3.5401	3.3750	2036.25	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
French Franc	0.1530	0.1530	0.1530	0.1530	1.0000	0.4937	3.3750	2036.25	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
Swiss Franc	0.5033	0.5033	0.5033	0.5033	0.5033	1.0000	3.3750	2036.25	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
Dutch Guilder	0.3736	0.3736	0.3736	0.3736	0.3736	0.3736	1.0000	3.3750	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
Italian Lira	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	1.0000	1.2960	20.3625	72.73
Canadian Dollar	0.7713	0.7713	0.7713	0.7713	0.7713	0.7713	0.7713	0.7713	1.0000	20.3625	72.73
Belgian Franc	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	1.0000	72.73

## STERLING EXCHANGE RATE

March 8	Prev. close	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
U.S.	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655
Canada	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960
France	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510
Germany	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250
Italy	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25
Japan	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00
Netherlands	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000
Sweden	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000
Switzerland	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

## POUND SPOT-FORWARD AGAINST POUND

March 8	Spot	Close	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
U.S.	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655
Canada	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960
France	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510
Germany	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250
Italy	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25
Japan	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00
Netherlands	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000
Sweden	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000
Switzerland	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

## DOLLAR SPOT-FORWARD AGAINST DOLLAR

March 8	Spot	Close	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
U.S.	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655	1.0655
Canada	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960	1.2960
France	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510	6.5510
Germany	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250	3.4250
Italy	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25	1,936.25
Japan	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00
Netherlands	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000	2.2000
Sweden	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000	4.6000
Switzerland	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500	1.7500
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

## Rates fall

UK interest rates were easier yesterday, helped by sterling's relatively steady rise in currency markets. The three-month interbank rate fell to 12 1/2 per cent down from 13 1/2 per cent while three-month Treasury bills were sold at 12 1/2 per cent down from 13 1/2 per cent. Weekend

UK clearing banks base lending rate 14 per cent since January 28

Interbank money opened at 14 1/4 per cent and touched a peak of 17 per cent during the afternoon. Despite a large gap between the forecast shortage and the published help, rates came back to 14 per cent towards the close. Trading was dull for most of the day with some interest in three and six month interbank helping to push rates lower in the afternoon.

The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £400m with factors affecting the market including maturities assistance and a take up of Treasury bills together draining £200m and a rise in the rate of circulation a further £50m. In addition banks' forward business, which was partly offset by Exchequer transactions which added £100m.

## EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing rates)

Mar. 8	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	0 mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Belgian Franc	Yen	Danish Krone
Short term	14.14	8.1/8	10.11	7.1/8	5.1/8	6.1/8	10.1/8	13.1/4	10.1/8	6.1/8	12.1/8
7 days notice	14.14	8.1/8	10.11	7.1/8	5.1/8	6.1/8	10.1/8	13.1/4	10.1/8	6.1/8	12.1/8
1 month	14.14	8.1/8	10.11	7.1/8	5.1/8	6.1/8	10.1/8	13.1/4	10.1/8	6.1/8	12.1/8
3 months	12.1/2	8.1/8	10.11	7.1/8	5.1/8	6.1/8	10.1/8	13.1/4	10.1/8	6.1/8	12.1/8
6 months	12.1/2	8.1/8	10.11	7.1/8	5.1/8	6.1/8	10.1/8	13.1/4	10.1/8	6.1/8	12.1/8
1 year	12.1/2	8.1/8	10.11	7.1/8	5.1/8	6.1/8	10.1/8	13.1/4	10.1/8	6.1/8	12.1/8

Asian 5 (closing rates in Singapore). Short-term 8 1/8 per cent; seven days 8 1/8 per cent; one month 8 1/8 per cent; three months 8 1/8 per cent; six months 8 1/8 per cent; one year 11 1/8 per cent. Long-term Eurodollars two years 11 1/8 per cent; three years 12 1/8 per cent; four years 12 1/8 per cent; five years 12 1/8 per cent. Short-term rates are call for U.S. dollars and Japanese yen; others two years' notice.

## COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

## WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

## REVIEW OF THE WEEK

## AMERICAN MARKETS

Latest prices	Change	Year ago	High	Low
METALS				
Aluminum	1.146/1.155	+20	1.155	1.146
Antimony	2.000/2.010	+10	2.010	2.000
Copper	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Gold	380.00	+10	380.00	380.00
Lead	0.230/0.240	+10	0.240	0.230
Nickel	0.230/0.240	+10	0.240	0.230
Platinum	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Silver	0.230/0.240	+10	0.240	0.230
Tin	0.230/0.240	+10	0.240	0.230
Zinc	0.230/0.240	+10	0.240	0.230
Grains				
Barley	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Maize	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Wheat	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Spices				
Black pepper	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
White pepper	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Oils				
Coconut (Philippines)	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Palm (Malaysia)	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
SEEDS				
Cotton (Philippines)	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Soybeans (U.S.)	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
OTHER COMMODITIES				
Cocoa	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Opium	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Rubber	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Sisal	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Sugar	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Tobacco	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100
Wool	1.100/1.110	+10	1.110	1.100

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## LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

## MARKET REPORT

# Revived hopes of lower interest rates spur gilts equities subdued at end of pre-Budget Account

## Account Dealing Dales

First Declared Last Account  
Dealing Days  
Mar 1 Mar 2 Mar 3 Mar 4  
Mar 5 Mar 6 Mar 7 Mar 8  
Mar 9 Mar 10 Mar 11 Mar 12  
Mar 13 Mar 14 Mar 15 Mar 16  
Mar 17 Mar 18 Mar 19 Mar 20  
Mar 21 Mar 22 Mar 23 Mar 24  
Mar 25 Mar 26 Mar 27 Mar 28  
Mar 29 Mar 30 Mar 31

Leading equities ended the pre-Budget trading Account on a subdued note, in contrast to Government stocks which moved higher after registering an improved volume of business. Slightly more buoyant than the three-month interbank eased in the 15% per cent—supported Gilts edged issues as hopes were rekindled of lower bank base rates around Budget time.

The possibility of higher U.S. Prime rates following the late unexpected sharp surge in money supply caused few worries. Sterling's initial weakness caused some hesitation, but investors soon stepped aside their reservations when the rate rallied strongly against the dollar.

Thoughts of new Government funding were present throughout official gilt market trading and shortly after 3.30 pm the authorities announced new funding in the form of £600m. Three £200m tranches of existing stocks, comprising Treasury 8 per cent 1994, Treasury 10 per cent 1990 and Conversion 10 per cent 2002, are to be made available to the market from Monday at current prices.

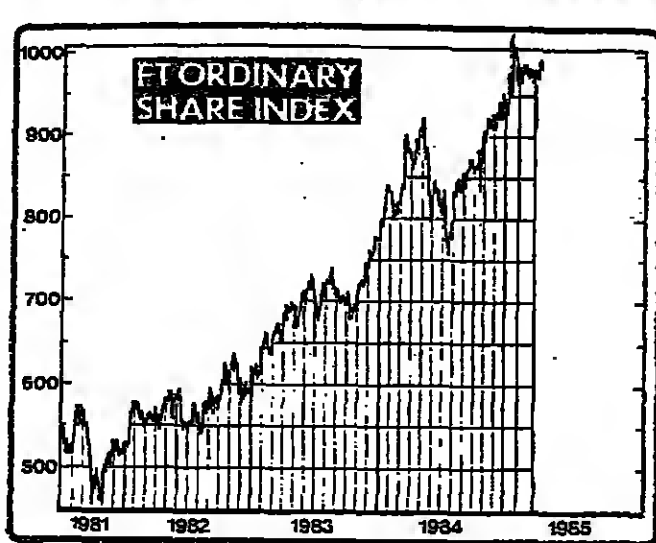
When dealings resumed after the usual recess the tone was immediately a shade softer but buyers soon reappeared and long-dated Gilts closed 1 up in places at the session's highest. Index-linked stocks performed well with gains ranging to 1 1/2% but conventional shorts managed only minor improvements.

Equity markets were unable to cold-shoulder Wall Street's latest fall and inactivity stocks generally opened a point or two earlier. Bank-related offerings had little impact on sentiment and "new-time" inquiries were negligible. One notable casualty was Hawker Siddeley which ran down to early single figures as a company share was sold by its Canadian subsidiary. Despite a fall of 13 to 42p after 4.10 pm, in Hawker, the FT Ordinary share index rallied after-hours to close 1 1/2 up on the day for a rise of 18 1/2 points to 853 1/2.

Private bank placements continued an eventful clearing bank dividend season with annual profits at the top end of brokers' forecasts and a surprise 50 per cent scrip-issuance standing around 5% in front of the announcement. The shares moved up sharply afterwards to close a net 17 higher at 545p. Other clearers rallied in sympathy and Barclays, at 500p, retrieved Thursday's fall of 7 which greeted the proposed £507m rights issue. Midland gained 7 more for a rise of 14 on the week at 352p, still buoyed by motor-thriller expected preliminary profits. After opening the season with an impressive 30 per cent profit increase, Natwest closed the day unchanged, but 15 easier on the week at 625p. Elsewhere, Gerard and National rose sharply to a new 1984-85 peak of 365p in initial response to a Press suggestion that Hong Kong and Shanghai was a possible suitor. But the latter's denial of any such intention brought a reaction to 340p, still 10 up on balance. Other Discom, Houslow and Shand was a possible suitor. But the latter's denial of any such intention brought a reaction to 340p, still 10 up on balance. Other Discom, Houslow and Shand was a possible suitor.

Comments on Commercial Union's £72.5m annual deficit led to end-Account profit-taking, the shares closed 4 easier at 183p, after 182p. Other Composites passed a quietly dull session. GEC, the next to report preliminary figures on April 3, gave up 3 to 635p, while Sun Alliance cheapened 6 at 440p. Lloyd's Brokers turned irregular. Stewart Wrightson put out 8 afresh to 580p, but Selgwick softened 2 in 37p; the latter's annual figures are scheduled for Thursday.

An eventful week for the British stock market followed news of a 2 1/2 per cent cement price increase to be implemented in June, encountered profit-taking. Rine Circle lost 5 to 310p and Rugeley Portland Cement closed 1 1/2 down at 127p. Elsewhere, AMEC gave up 5 to 244p on lack of support and John Laing eased 4 to 216p. Turfitt, a weak market to recently follow the board's indication of sharply reduced profits, rallied 5 to 200p, but still sustained a fall on the week of 62. Among Timbers, Meyer International were unsettled by a broker's downgraded profits estimate and shed 3 to 114p. At 208p, Southern Railway offered a couple of pence 15p, as did Travis and Arnold, to a 1984-85 end of 245p. Renewed



FT ORDINARY SHARE INDEX

concern about the company's financial situation clipped 3 more from Burnet and Hallamshire to 50p. ICI slipped to 835p, but subsequently rallied to 842p helped by buying for the dividend before setting a couple of pence dearer on balance at 840p. Among other Chemicals, Anchor rose 10 for a two-day gain of 23 to 365p, after 270p, in response to a newsletter recommendation, while British Tar Products attracted further speculative buying and added 2 more to 41p. Elsewhere, Amersham International rose 1 to 347p following a broker's recommendation.

## Waring &amp; Gilroy wanted

Leading Retailers, initially unsettled by thoughts that any further increase to mortgage rates could hit recently buoyant consumer spending, subsequently well above worst levels. Burton, down to 44p earlier, closed only 2 cheaper at 445p, while Marks and Spencer edged unchanged at 187p, after 184p. Woolworth, however, remained firm, albeit in a narrow market, to close another 10 higher at 800p. Tesco's market fell to 400p while Lloyds dipped to 155p before settling only 3 off on balance at 402p. Secondary Stores featured renewed support for Waring and Gilroy, 15 dearer at 138p, while buyers also displayed fresh interest in Peter Brothers, 10 up to 208p. Seilcoor, 11 better at 212p following option business, and Martin Ford, 3 Armer for a gain on the week of 10 to 35p.

## Renewed institutional support

British Telecom close 2 dearer and 12 higher on the week at 130p. Plessey rallied 4 at 162p and Rascal hardened a couple of pence to 218p. GEC held the overnight level of 185p; the company this week acquired a further 5m of its own shares at 187p per share. Thorn EMI, firm earlier this week on news of a subsidiary's 118m contract to supply the Army with thermal imager repair facilities, fell 7 to 433p. Standard Telephones and Cables moved up 6 to 205p with the new n-pal shares closing 5 dearer at 121p. Highland continued to reflect an investment recommendation at 121p, up 3. Reports of a large line of shares overhanging the market left Electronic Rentals 2 off at 41p, after 39p, while Oxford dropped 1 to 40p on news of the 53m annual profit and accompanying profits warning.

Hawker, unsettled initially by an incorrect assessment of its Canadian subsidiary, results fell to 410p before recovering to close 13 off on balance at 428p. Among other Engineering leaders, GKN firmed 5 to 221p awaiting Wednesday's preliminary results. Fray's shed 1 1/2 to 176p, but recovered to close 4 cheaper at 235p. Interest revived in Haden, 12 higher at 317p, which compares with the cash offer of 320p per share from Trafalgar House. British Steam Specialties edged up 4 more to 127p and occasional support was evident for A.S. at 491p. Further profit-taking, however, clipped 10 more from Zanussi Sims, at 610p.

Among Feds, a broker's downgraded profits estimate hit Tate and Lyle, 10 lower at 450p, while profit-taking in the wake of the annual results clipped a penny from Cadbury Schweppes, at 165p. Rowntree Macintosh touched 385p prior to closing a couple of pence cheaper at 380p; the annual results are due next Thursday. Northern Foods opened lower at 230p on suggestions that the company may buy Grand Metropolitan's Express Dairies subsidiary, but rallied to the overnight level of 235p following the announcement that discussions with Grand Met were confined to Express Dairies northern liquid milk interests. Grand Metropolitan closed unchanged at 255p, after 250p. Among Food Retailers, further demand ahead of next Wednesday's interim results lifted Bejam 6 to 164p. In Hotels, Norfolk Capital touched 28p on speculation about a possible bid from Trusthouse Forte before shipping back on profit-taking to close unchanged at 27p; THF softened a penny to 155p.

Domestic oil for most of the session, leading miscellaneous industrials picked up late and final quotations were little altered on balance. Elsewhere, J. Wilkes featured a rise of 28 to 210p in response to the good annual results and proposed one-for-four scrip issue. Revived speculative demand lifted LCP 8 to 133p, while Manover Investments, up 11 at 135p, reflected buying on the back of the heavily-overvalued Mao and Co. issue. Lata support lifted Barham 25 to 176p, after 170p, while a good at 425p. End-Account profit-taking took Bowater down to 251p before buyers reappeared and left the close only 3 down on balance at 256p. F. H. Tompkins traced a similar pattern, ending down 1 to 176p, despite the useful revival and regained 6 to 20p, while similar improvements were recorded in Gramplan Holdings, 116p, and Marling Industries, 79p. Occasional support left Pentac 4 to the good at 41p, but Christmas, Lancashire, a stock market recovery on a combination of overseas earnings potential and bid suggestions, drifted back following profit-taking to close 8 lower at 620p. Brammer eased 4 further to 292p as bid hopes faded, while later offerings left Feedex 6 cheaper at 25p.

Group Lotus firmed 8 to 115p, a gain of 27 over the previous week—on buoyancy encouraged by hopes of a closer tie with Chrysler. In sharp contrast, recent speculative high-lower in 53p, still up 18 on the week, as the directors effectively defused the situation. Jaguar rallied from the early level of 351p to settle a net penny dearer at 356p—a gain of 26 over the five-day period. Elsewhere, late support was evident for A.S. at 491p, while Dunlop hardened a couple of pence to 51p.

Leading Properties traded quietly and settled a shade easier, but secondary issues displayed several bright spots. News of the group's latest property acquisition from Grosvenor City Offices helped Charles Nichols rise 5 to 160p, while revived demand in restricted markets lifted Imry 15 to 275p and Peel Holdings 6 to 375p. London Provincial Shop moved up 5 to 875p and speculation in the City of London Estates hardened a couple of pence to 237p.

## Among Shipping, end-Account

profit-taking clipped a few pence from P & O, 362p, and Ocean

Transport, 185p. James Fisher, on the other hand, hardened a couple of pence to 121p in front of next Wednesday's preliminary results. Recent speculative favourite Walker Rammacher rose 3 for a week's gain of 23 at 103p; the company has sold its controlling interest in Liquid Gas Equipment to Grove Holdings for an immediate consideration of £0.37m.

## Among Financials, Framlington

gave up 25 to 750p following disappointing first-half figures.

## BP up again

Broadly favourable Press comment on BP's increase in profits and dividend encouraged good support which boosted the shares to 566p, however, profit-taking subsequently left the quotation only 4 better on the day and 32 up on the week at 557p. Shell moved erratically in front of the preliminary results, which are scheduled for Thursday; initially sold down to 770p they picked up after-hours and touched 778p before retreating afresh to close down 1 1/2 to 770p, after 775p, reporting a 10-year average on March 21, attracted persistent support and ended the day a couple of pence harder at 210p, as did Enterprise Oil, 202p, after 204p.

Many of the lesser-known oil stocks continued to reflect substantial speculative buying interest. Highland Participants proved the week's best performer and surged a further 23 to 239p, after a record 244p, on Thursday the company announced a proposed primary placement of 1.25m shares at 150p a share to expand its UK and U.S. activities. ERIC jumped 15 more to 345p; and Caledonian Offshore rose a further 10 to 380p, a week's gain of 60.

James's Drilling, however, fell 12 to 125p following the poor annual results. Elsewhere, Ireland's Oseola Hydrocarbons initially fell away to 205p before rallying to close a net 5 up at 215p in the wake of a U.S. drilling report.

## Golds easier

Features to mining markets were few and far between. The volatile nature of foreign exchange markets continued to deter investors and dealers alike, as saw billion initially eased back to \$289 before rallying to \$292 and closing a net \$15 up at \$291.25, an ounce.

The opening weakness of bullion and an initial fall in the Rand rate prompted a personal Cape initiative of Gild at the outset. However, a gradual rally to both, following a downturn in the dollar, restored a measure of stability in share prices which generally closed with moderate losses across the board. The Gold Mines index gave up 6 1/2 to 474 1/2, virtually unchanged over the week, and only 8 1/2 higher on the Account. Financials remained subdued, in South African General mirrored slight disappointment with the preliminary results and gave up 4 to £10, while Anglo-American fell 2 1/2 to £27 1/2.

## UK-domiciled Financials moved

erratically throughout the day but picked up on buying for the new Account. Consolidated Gold Fields settled 5 firmer at 465p, virtually unchanged on the week—following the half-year results announced on Tuesday.

## FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS		Fri March 8 1985				Thurs March 7		Wed March 6		Tues March 5		Mon March 4		Year to Date (approx.)		Highs and Lows Index					
Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section		Index	Day's Change	Est. Earnings Value (\$/share)	Grady Div. Yield (%ACT)	Est. P/E Ratio (NEU)	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	High	Low	High	Low		
																1984-85				Source Compilation	
																High	Low	High	Low		
1	CAPITAL GROSS (206)	542.45	+0.1	10.14	5.96	12.33	541.84	543.10	537.73	535.73	539.81	537.15	523.25	434.90	527.15	577.15	521.85	567.1	131.27		
2	Equities Materials (123)	498.81	+0.2	13.07	5.13	9.47	497.57	499.98	486.42	491.10	497.10	537.15	574.84	492.13	137.84	537.59	574.84	492.13	131.27		
3	Construction, Construction (91)	604.17	+0.8	14.43	5.79	8.86	603.37	605.88	608.31	602.81	761.81	776.48	234.04	162.78	197.84	831.09	153.83	71.48	12.27		
4	Electrical (115)	150.32	-	10.74	4.97	11.78	150.52	149.23	150.03	150.03	161.82	108.92	203.64	100.00	247.84	199.73	1.73	0.67	256.76		
5	Electronics (36)	1720.50	+0.6	8.68	2.95	14.91	1718.28	1728.99	1675.87	1682.43	1736.94	2049.05	131.04	178.18	315.84	294.08	131.04	136.78	51.75		
6	Mechanical Engineers (69)	375.80	+0.5	13.59	5.99	10.48	375.53	377.62	375.67	376.72	378.26	268.10	221.83	132.71	31.84	294.10	221.83	43.85	51.75		
7	Mechanical and Metal Forming (8)	165.34	+0.2	12.12	5.98	11.12	165.78	166.14	165.23	164.45	225.50	129.74	133.04	129.04	29.74	133.04	129.04	43.85	51.75		
8	Other (118)	165.34	+0.9	10.54	4.60	11.99	165.85	164.29	162.23	163.73	167.19	165.34	87.53	123.73	119.74	170.59	151.69	19.1	61.71		
9	Other Industrial Materials (161)	910.76	+0.1	7.51	3.32	16.66	909.83	913.57	898.94	904.32	907.82	925.24	181.65	992.04	914.34	925.24	181.65	27.55	19.1		
CONSUMER GROUP (181)		633.16	+0.2	-	9.40	13.10	634.41	628.58	628.95	625.27	640.59	652.30	221.83	461.40	31.84	628.95	221.83	61.43	131.27		
10	Brewers and Distillers (23)	563.37	+0.1	12.02	4.75	10.31	563.81	569.53	554.72	561.81	476.33	593.84	221.83	461.40	31.84	593.84	221.83	61.43	131.27		
11	Food Manufacturers (211)	509.90	+0.3	12.45	4.44	10.90	512.44	516.77	506.91	496.53	593.82	522.44	77.83	36.25	107.84	512.44	77.83	36.27	107.84		
12	Food Retailing (13)	167.49	+0.7	8.62	2.57	19.84	168.09	169.66	167.49	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09		
13	Tobacco and Household Products	107.37	+0.7	8.62	2.57	20.83	107.91	108.58	108.58	107.37	107.37	108.58	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09	168.09		
14	Leisure (22)	689.56	+0.8	6.28	4.77	15.06	695.05	696.59	691.51	690.14	634.84	719.49	283.85	129.27	257.84	719.49	283.85	54.83	91.71		
15	Newspapers, Publishing (112)	1724.05	+0.2	6.70	4.33	19.09	1728.65	1735.17	1709.63	1694.84	1685.42	1724.05	87.85	108.75	31.84	1724.05	87.85	55.08	61.71		
16	Packaging and Paper (14)	313.43	+0.5	12.62	4.63	9.12	313.14	315.87	309.49	308.79	236.02	314.84	231.83	21.87	247.84	314.84	231.83	40.46	61.71		
17	Stores (145)	557.48	+0.3	7.33	3.35	16.52	559.03	557.17	553.83	556.99	534.34	574.83	221.83	38.87	247.84	574.83	221.83	52.83	61.71		
18	Textiles (13)	329.10	+0.4	7.88	3.91	14.58	328.01	328.86	326.95	325.19	360.58	379.74	77.83	167.84	340.58	379.74	77.83	62.84	117.87		
19	Other Groups (96)	675.48	+0.3	9.00	3.98	13.39	675.49	674.67	661.51	661.51	661.51	663.21	181.65	988.54	127.84	661.51	181.65	58.63	61.71		
20	Chemicals (17)	809.57	+0.3	12.38	4.48	10.00	807.22	812.10	812.10	812.10	892.87	922.82	222.85	493.52	137.84	832.26	222.85	73.29	102.77		
21	Office Equipment (14)	184.59	+0.3	7.17	4.53	10.99	184.85	186.13	181.73	180.92	196.66	184.59	87.85	109.38	31.84	184.59	87.85	46.34	117.87		
22	Shipping and Transport (12)	1132.03	+0.7	6.17	4.39	19.67	1137.33	1133.83	1128.62	1128.62	896.35	1142.04	317.83	31.84	107.84	1142.04	317.83	40.38	298.86		
23	Telephone Networks (2)	779.32	+0.7	7.78	4.04	10.54	782.11	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93		
24	Telephone Networks (2)	779.32	+0.7	7.78	4.04	10.54	782.11	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93	779.93		
INDUSTRIAL GROUP (43)		628.96	-	9.41	3.89	13.11	627.67	628.61	625.17	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67	627.67		
25	BLS (117)	1313.07	+0.3	14.93	4.54	8.30	1312.67	1314.04	1285.13	1318.00	1291.74	1299.73	152.85	193.41	297.84	1299.73	152.85	87.23	295.86		
26	S&P SHARE INDEX (500)	677.42	-	10.26	4.27	12.06	677.14	677.83	672.62	667.42	536.30	690.30	221.83	300.85	247.84	690.30	221.83	63.49	131.27		
FINANCIAL GROUP (134)		450.42	-	-	5.00	-	449.65	449.11	448.40	444.29	436.25	499.88	87.85	34.83	315.84	499.88	87.85	55.88	131.27		
62	Banks (6)	448.36	+1.3	10.08	4.47	7.48	448.35	449.47	455.17	451.03	421.30	482.64	77.83	336.01	315.84	482.64	77.83	62.84	121.77		
63	Insurance (116)	634.71	+0.9	-	4.29	-	634.36	625.26	620.69	610.31	474.23	640.36	77.83	336.01	315.84	640.36	77.83	44.88	121.77		
64	Insurance (Investment) (7)	320.30	-	-	5.92	-	320.21	317.18	317.18	315.34	258.69	284.19	221.83	22.72	31.84	284.19	221.83	43.85	51.75		
65	Insurance (Broken) (6)	165.34	+0.4	6.66	3.38	20.81	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34	165.34		
66	Merchant Banks (12)	234.04	+6.3	-	4.58	-	233.27	233.62	234.15	234.04	231.54	231.54	114.04	184.12	247.84	231.54	114.04	43.85	51.75		
67	Property (10)	632.52	+0.3	5.53	3.57	24.07	634.20	637.66	628.63	628.63	628.63	640.36	191.204	526.77	102.84	640.36	191.204	54.83	204.86		
70	Other Financial (25)	290.27	+0.1	9.02	5.41	13.41	289.94	289.94	288.95	288.95	290.59	278.71	296.72	67.82	247.84	303.18	185.72	33.29	121.77		
71	Investment Funds (106)	632.52	+0.3	-	3.13	-	635.62	634.41	632.41	632.41	628.63	476.07	635.62	77.83	457.91	1.86	635.62	77.83	71.12	121.77	
72	Mining Finance (14)	299.23	+0.5	9.82	5.22	12.97	299.77	297.88	287.12	288.81	324.88	324.88	324.88	324.88	324.88	324.88	324.88	324.88	324.88		
73	Trusts (134)	655.13	+0.3	13.15	4.46	11.12	654.88	657.39	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48	647.48		
74	ALL-SHARE INDEX (730)	619.40	-	-	5.46	4.35	619.59	619.47	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51	618.51		
FT-SE 100 SHARE INDEX		1288.4	+2.8	22.84	24.33	-	1289.1	1288.4	1274.9	1265.2	-	1265.2	221.83	96.61	237.84	1265.2	221.83	96.61	237.84		



## STOCK EXCHANGE DEALINGS

Details of business done above have been taken with consent from the Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 3.30 pm on Thursday and are based on the Stock Exchange's official system.

They are not in order of execution but in ascending order of which company's share is highest and lowest dealing prices. For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List, the latest recorded business in the four previous days is given with the relevant date. \* Bargains done the previous day. \* Bargains done with non-member or executed in overseas markets.

## STERLING ISSUES BY FOREIGN GOVTS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Adrian Bank 11.1/12.1/13.1/14.1/15.1/16.1/17.1/18.1/19.1/20.1/21.1/22.1/23.1/24.1/25.1/26.1/27.1/28.1/29.1/30.1/31.1/32.1/33.1/34.1/35.1/36.1/37.1/38.1/39.1/40.1/41.1/42.1/43.1/44.1/45.1/46.1/47.1/48.1/49.1/50.1/51.1/52.1/53.1/54.1/55.1/56.1/57.1/58.1/59.1/60.1/61.1/62.1/63.1/64.1/65.1/66.1/67.1/68.1/69.1/70.1/71.1/72.1/73.1/74.1/75.1/76.1/77.1/78.1/79.1/80.1/81.1/82.1/83.1/84.1/85.1/86.1/87.1/88.1/89.1/90.1/91.1/92.1/93.1/94.1/95.1/96.1/97.1/98.1/99.1/100.1/101.1/102.1/103.1/104.1/105.1/106.1/107.1/108.1/109.1/110.1/111.1/112.1/113.1/114.1/115.1/116.1/117.1/118.1/119.1/120.1/121.1/122.1/123.1/124.1/125.1/126.1/127.1/128.1/129.1/130.1/131.1/132.1/133.1/134.1/135.1/136.1/137.1/138.1/139.1/140.1/141.1/142.1/143.1/144.1/145.1/146.1/147.1/148.1/149.1/150.1/151.1/152.1/153.1/154.1/155.1/156.1/157.1/158.1/159.1/160.1/161.1/162.1/163.1/164.1/165.1/166.1/167.1/168.1/169.1/170.1/171.1/172.1/173.1/174.1/175.1/176.1/177.1/178.1/179.1/180.1/181.1/182.1/183.1/184.1/185.1/186.1/187.1/188.1/189.1/190.1/191.1/192.1/193.1/194.1/195.1/196.1/197.1/198.1/199.1/200.1/201.1/202.1/203.1/204.1/205.1/206.1/207.1/208.1/209.1/210.1/211.1/212.1/213.1/214.1/215.1/216.1/217.1/218.1/219.1/220.1/221.1/222.1/223.1/224.1/225.1/226.1/227.1/228.1/229.1/230.1/231.1/232.1/233.1/234.1/235.1/236.1/237.1/238.1/239.1/240.1/241.1/242.1/243.1/244.1/245.1/246.1/247.1/248.1/249.1/250.1/251.1/252.1/253.1/254.1/255.1/256.1/257.1/258.1/259.1/260.1/261.1/262.1/263.1/264.1/265.1/266.1/267.1/268.1/269.1/270.1/271.1/272.1/273.1/274.1/275.1/276.1/277.1/278.1/279.1/280.1/281.1/282.1/283.1/284.1/285.1/286.1/287.1/288.1/289.1/290.1/291.1/292.1/293.1/294.1/295.1/296.1/297.1/298.1/299.1/300.1/301.1/302.1/303.1/304.1/305.1/306.1/307.1/308.1/309.1/310.1/311.1/312.1/313.1/314.1/315.1/316.1/317.1/318.1/319.1/320.1/321.1/322.1/323.1/324.1/325.1/326.1/327.1/328.1/329.1/330.1/331.1/332.1/333.1/334.1/335.1/336.1/337.1/338.1/339.1/340.1/341.1/342.1/343.1/344.1/345.1/346.1/347.1/348.1/349.1/350.1/351.1/352.1/353.1/354.1/355.1/356.1/357.1/358.1/359.1/360.1/361.1/362.1/363.1/364.1/365.1/366.1/367.1/368.1/369.1/370.1/371.1/372.1/373.1/374.1/375.1/376.1/377.1/378.1/379.1/380.1/381.1/382.1/383.1/384.1/385.1/386.1/387.1/388.1/389.1/390.1/391.1/392.1/393.1/394.1/395.1/396.1/397.1/398.1/399.1/400.1/401.1/402.1/403.1/404.1/405.1/406.1/407.1/408.1/409.1/410.1/411.1/412.1/413.1/414.1/415.1/416.1/417.1/418.1/419.1/420.1/421.1/422.1/423.1/424.1/425.1/426.1/427.1/428.1/429.1/430.1/431.1/432.1/433.1/434.1/435.1/436.1/437.1/438.1/439.1/440.1/441.1/442.1/443.1/444.1/445.1/446.1/447.1/448.1/449.1/450.1/451.1/452.1/453.1/454.1/455.1/456.1/457.1/458.1/459.1/460.1/461.1/462.1/463.1/464.1/465.1/466.1/467.1/468.1/469.1/470.1/471.1/472.1/473.1/474.1/475.1/476.1/477.1/478.1/479.1/480.1/481.1/482.1/483.1/484.1/485.1/486.1/487.1/488.1/489.1/490.1/491.1/492.1/493.1/494.1/495.1/496.1/497.1/498.1/499.1/500.1/501.1/502.1/503.1/504.1/505.1/506.1/507.1/508.1/509.1/510.1/511.1/512.1/513.1/514.1/515.1/516.1/517.1/518.1/519.1/520.1/521.1/522.1/523.1/524.1/525.1/526.1/527.1/528.1/529.1/530.1/531.1/532.1/533.1/534.1/535.1/536.1/537.1/538.1/539.1/540.1/541.1/542.1/543.1/544.1/545.1/546.1/547.1/548.1/549.1/550.1/551.1/552.1/553.1/554.1/555.1/556.1/557.1/558.1/559.1/560.1/561.1/562.1/563.1/564.1/565.1/566.1/567.1/568.1/569.1/570.1/571.1/572.1/573.1/574.1/575.1/576.1/577.1/578.1/579.1/580.1/581.1/582.1/583.1/584.1/585.1/586.1/587.1/588.1/589.1/590.1/591.1/592.1/593.1/594.1/595.1/596.1/597.1/598.1/599.1/600.1/601.1/602.1/603.1/604.1/605.1/606.1/607.1/608.1/609.1/610.1/611.1/612.1/613.1/614.1/615.1/616.1/617.1/618.1/619.1/620.1/621.1/622.1/623.1/624.1/625.1/626.1/627.1/628.1/629.1/630.1/631.1/632.1/633.1/634.1/635.1/636.1/637.1/638.1/639.1/640.1/641.1/642.1/643.1/644.1/645.1/646.1/647.1/648.1/649.1/650.1/651.1/652.1/653.1/654.1/655.1/656.1/657.1/658.1/659.1/660.1/661.1/662.1/663.1/664.1/665.1/666.1/667.1/668.1/669.1/670.1/671.1/672.1/673.1/674.1/675.1/676.1/677.1/678.1/679.1/680.1/681.1/682.1/683.1/684.1/685.1/686.1/687.1/688.1/689.1/690.1/691.1/692.1/693.1/694.1/695.1/696.1/697.1/698.1/699.1/700.1/701.1/702.1/703.1/704.1/705.1/706.1/707.1/708.1/709.1/710.1/711.1/712.1/713.1/714.1/715.1/716.1/717.1/718.1/719.1/720.1/721.1/722.1/723.1/724.1/725.1/726.1/727.1/728.1/729.1/730.1/731.1/732.1/733.1/734.1/735.1/736.1/737.1/738.1/739.1/740.1/741.1/742.1/743.1/744.1/745.1/746.1/747.1/748.1/749.1/750.1/751.1/752.1/753.1/754.1/755.1/756.1/757.1/758.1/759.1/760.1/761.1/762.1/763.1/764.1/765.1/766.1/767.1/768.1/769.1/770.1/771.1/772.1/773.1/774.1/775.1/776.1/777.1/778.1/779.1/780.1/781.1/782.1/783.1/784.1/785.1/786.1/787.1/788.1/789.1/790.1/791.1/792.1/793.1/794.1/795.1/796.1/797.1/798.1/799.1/800.1/801.1/802.1/803.1/804.1/805.1/806.1/807.1/808.1/809.1/810.1/811.1/812.1/813.1/814.1/815.1/816.1/817.1/818.1/819.1/820.1/821.1/822.1/823.1/824.1/825.1/826.1/827.1/828.1/829.1/830.1/831.1/832.1/833.1/834.1/835.1/836.1/837.1/838.1/839.1/840.1/841.1/842.1/843.1/844.1/845.1/846.1/847.1/848.1/849.1/850.1/851.1/852.1/853.1/854.1/855.1/856.1/857.1/858.1/8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Price	+ or -	Year	Re-
£	-	Int.	Re-

1994-95	Low	High	Stock	Price \$	+/-	Div Gross	P/E	Yld P/E
47%	25%	Abbot Labs	45 1/2	+	\$1.20	2.4		
26%	21%	Almacen (H.F.)	33 1/2	++	\$1.20	4.1		
25%	22%	Alcoa	33 1/2	+	\$1.20	3.2		
25%	21%	Aluminum & W. Ind.	18 1/2	+				
19%	21%	United Corp. S1	34 1/2	+	\$1.80	4.4		
15%	13%	Amcor S1	14 1/2	+	\$1.00	1.1		
11%	13%	Amstar S1	34 1/2	+	20 1/2	1.1		
11%	11%	Amstar S1	34 1/2	+	\$1.00	2.9		
40%	10%	Amstar, Export 50.60	39 1/2	+	\$1.20	2.5		

## CANADIANS

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150	330	General Smith Turn. A	155	12.55	42	21	16
151	331	Offender Whaley	156	12.56	50	37	17
152	332	Offender Smith	157	12.57	43	30	18
153	333	Offender Smith	158	12.58	43	30	19
248	516	Richard Smith	246	-2	5.4	32	37
249	517	Richard Smith	247	-2	5.4	32	38
163	326	Highland Dist. 20p	168	12.78	23	17	11
164	327	Interpound Dist.	169	12.79	40	28	29
175	130	Irish Dwellers	178	12.80	25	36	9
176	131	Irish Dwellers	179	12.81	33	44	10
177	132	Irish Dwellers	180	12.82	41	52	11
178	133	Irish Dwellers	181	12.83	49	60	12
179	134	Irish Dwellers	182	12.84	57	68	13
180	135	Irish Dwellers	183	12.85	65	76	14
181	136	Irish Dwellers	184	12.86	73	84	15
182	137	Irish Dwellers	185	12.87	81	92	16
183	138	Irish Dwellers	186	12.88	89	100	17
184	139	Irish Dwellers	187	12.89	97	108	18
185	140	Irish Dwellers	188	12.90	105	116	19
186	141	Irish Dwellers	189	12.91	113	124	20
187	142	Irish Dwellers	190	12.92	121	132	21
188	143	Irish Dwellers	191	12.93	129	140	22
189	144	Irish Dwellers	192	12.94	137	148	23
190	145	Irish Dwellers	193	12.95	145	156	24
191	146	Irish Dwellers	194	12.96	153	164	25
192	147	Irish Dwellers	195	12.97	161	172	26
193	148	Irish Dwellers	196	12.98	169	180	27
194	149	Irish Dwellers	197	12.99	177	188	28
195	150	Irish Dwellers	198	13.00	185	196	29
196	151	Irish Dwellers	199	13.01	193	204	30
197	152	Irish Dwellers	200	13.02	201	212	31
198	153	Irish Dwellers	201	13.03	209	220	32
199	154	Irish Dwellers	202	13.04	217	228	33
200	155	Irish Dwellers	203	13.05	225	236	34
201	156	Irish Dwellers	204	13.06	233	244	35
202	157	Irish Dwellers	205	13.07	241	252	36
203	158	Irish Dwellers	206	13.08	249	260	37
204	159	Irish Dwellers	207	13.09	257	268	38
205	160	Irish Dwellers	208	13.10	265	276	39
206	161	Irish Dwellers	209	13.11	273	284	40
207	162	Irish Dwellers	210	13.12	281	292	41
208	163	Irish Dwellers	211	13.13	289	300	42
209	164	Irish Dwellers	212	13.14	297	308	43
210	165	Irish Dwellers	213	13.15	305	316	44
211	166	Irish Dwellers	214	13.16	313	324	45
212	167	Irish Dwellers	215	13.17	321	332	46
213	168	Irish Dwellers	216	13.18	329	340	47
214	169	Irish Dwellers	217	13.19	337	348	48
215	170	Irish Dwellers	218	13.20	345	356	49
216	171	Irish Dwellers	219	13.21	353	364	50
217	172	Irish Dwellers	220	13.22	361	372	51
218	173	Irish Dwellers	221	13.23	369	380	52
219	174	Irish Dwellers	222	13.24	377	388	53
220	175	Irish Dwellers	223	13.25	385	396	54
221	176	Irish Dwellers	224	13.26	393	404	55
222	177	Irish Dwellers	225	13.27	401	412	56
223	178	Irish Dwellers	226	13.28	409	420	57
224	179	Irish Dwellers	227				

## BEERS, WINES—Cont.

123	WHS's General Inv.	cup	1
63	Wheatland 10p		5
189	Wheeler Loe. 10p		1.4
23	Wilmington (A) 10p		\$40
70	Weymouth (L) 10p		\$2.5
21	Wheat Group 5p		2
114	Wheat Group 10p		102
593	Do. 7/24/1997-04		377
220	House of France		418
66	House of Larnie		3
	Jones (Ernest) 10p		79

		ENGINEERING			
8	9.9			41	8
8	11.7			143	12.25
2	—	42	12	APV Sols.	240
2	21.1	575	210	Adams Group	240
1	3.6	167	166	Jack & Lutz	415
1	31.5	330	415	Astra Int'l. Sp.	2
5	—	10	7	Aerovital Co.	18
9	21.5	21	15	Do. Prof. Ord.	20
1	7.0	21	15	Robcock Inst.	2
5	12.2	174	122		

360	270	Grand Met. 50p	285	
58	37	Hunt Leisure 50p	58	+2
351	277	Kelly Enterprises 20p	351	
63 1/2	47 1/2	Kendall Services 10p	260	-3
61	10 1/2	Leachway 20p	260	-5
12 1/2	6 3/4	Lee Park Hotels	340	
245	133	MidChamper Inst 21	245	
89 1/2	50 1/2	Nit. Charlotte 10p	83	
6 1/2	28	Norfolk Capital 5p	27 1/2	
75	138	Prince of Wales	715	

27	46	91	352	132	Langdon Inds.
40	18	26.6	35	138	Low & Bonar 2
17	7.0	1	376	9	MCD Group
11.4	0.4	16.4	276	2	MAN Corp Inc
13	37	18.9	190	134	NAV Dist 12w
0.9	2.9	5.5	220	134	NE of Calif PH 2K
21	21	0	45	35	Northshore Gas
21	21	0	64	43	Northshore GP & A
1.8	13	133.1	64	28	Northshore Gas
1.9	1.9	120.0	330	257	Northshore Hldg
					North. Ship Con

93	20	43	31	84
327 +2	75	14	33	62
92	75	19	23	56
14	12	28	1	53
25	0.35	14	13	07
183	75	27	59	74
220	14.07	29	25	82
36	1.5	23	68	84
47	25	32	74	82
38	1	32	74	82
290 -2	5.5	35	27	15



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